

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
OFFICE OF WASTE, AIR, RADIATION AND REMEDIATION
BUREAU OF RADIATION PROTECTION
HARRISBURG, PA 17101

July 26, 2022

BRP INFORMATION NOTICE 2022-01 INFORMATION REGARDING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT
ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE INVESTIGATION OF THE TRANSFER OF
BYPRODUCT MATERIAL OTHER THAN CATEGORY 1 AND 2

ADDRESSEES

All Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Specific Licensees that possess an active license to manufacture and distribute Category 1, 2, and 3 quantities of radioactive materials.

PURPOSE

The DEP is issuing this Information Notice (IN) based on a recent US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Information Notice IN 2022-01. The purpose of the notice is to remind licensees to ensure, before transferring any radioactive material, that license verification meets the requirements set forth in the NRC regulations or equivalent Agreement State requirements.

DISCUSSION

On March 23, 2022, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) notified NRC that they had conducted an undercover investigation focused on the NRC's and the Agreement States' license verification process for materials other than Category 1 and 2. Beginning in 2020, the GAO set up five shell companies to appear as legitimate businesses that routinely use radioactive materials. The GAO set up company websites but did not establish or rent storefronts or other physical locations. The GAO altered the images of NRC and Agreement State licenses found on the internet to authorize up to Category 3 quantities of radioactive materials for these fictitious companies. Using the counterfeited licenses, the GAO was successfully able to receive their orders.

The DEP is reminding licensees to be vigilant when transferring radioactive material, including Category 3 sources, and to be cautious about orders received from new businesses and individuals that they have never worked with before. For radioactive material transfers, the DEP encourages transferring licensees to question information obtained from potentially receiving licensees. Such actions help prevent unauthorized transfers. A few examples of questionable information include missing source or device information and vague use descriptions. More detailed examples and descriptions are included in the attached NRC IN (2202-01).

CONTACT

Please treat this IN as official use information and do not distribute to anyone who does not have a need to know. This information should not be released to the public. If you have any questions about the information within this notice, please contact the Radiation Control Division at 717-787-3720.

Issued By:
Dwight Shearer, PE
Director
Bureau of Radiation Protection

Attachment: NRC INFORMATION NOTICE 2022-01