Portable Gauge Abandonment

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Bureau of Environmental Radiation
Background

- Portable Gauge License
  - One CPN International Mc Series gauge

- Problem Child Licensee
  - Multiple enforcement actions and fines
  - Hearing requested in 2018
  - Storage only license
  - 2019 inspection at new location found the gauge had been used
February 20th, 2020

• Portable gauge found in an alley behind a deli in Linden, NJ with the case still intact
• Local fire department dispatched to the scene and the Union Hazmat team was contacted
• Readings were taken 0.9mR/hr @ 2 feet away with PRD and 40GL
• Manufacturer was contacted to locate owner of device
• RSO reached
• Incident reported to NJDEP BER
Incident Follow - Up

- NJDEP BER decided to take custody of the gauge due to history of licensee and current situation (licensee vacated the office and abandoned gauge)
- NJDOT was contacted and transportation is arranged
- NJDEP BER issued self license for storage only until disposal was possible
- Storage area picked
  - Gauge would be chained to the shelving units and lead blankets would be kept on top draped over the sides
- Gauge was picked up on 2/24/2020 from Union Hazmat
  - Surveys and wipe test taken on site by BER staff
  - Secured in NJDOT vehicle with appropriate shipping papers
- Full investigation with NJ Div. of Criminal Justice began
Investigation

• NJDEP and NJ Div. of Criminal Justice staff meets with landlord at Licensee’s licensed office location

• Staff is given the following timeline by the landlord:
  • 2/13/2020 RSO tells landlord they no longer want the office or anything inside
  • 2/15/2020 Landlord begins cleaning out office and located the device; device is removed from the closet by landlord’s helper
  • 2/16/2020 Gauge is disposed of by the landlord’s helper
Inv. Continued

• Gauge storage was inspected
  • Closet with sliding door; no sign of locks or closure apparatus
  • Past inspection: device secured to closet walls with cables in wall hooks; second barrier is secretary at the office door and locked door when no one is in the office

• Landlord stated that the closest was not locked and he was unaware Rad. Material was being stored here
Where Do We Stand Now?

- Gauge was disposed of in May 2020
- License Revoked
- Several Enforcement actions have been issued
  - Admin. Order and Notice of Prosecution:
    - Not secured against unauthorized removal
    - Not meeting the two-barrier rule
    - Not maintaining control or constant surveillance of device
  - No current update
- Unable to get an update from NJ Div. of Criminal Justice staff
  - We will not hear anything until charges are issued
Questions?

Comments? Concerns?
Thank you

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