



Department of Energy
Germantown, MD 20874-1290

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August 24, 2005

Mr. Richard L. Arsenault
Oil Field Services Industry Forum for Radiation Safety and Security
c/o Halliburton Energy Services
3000 North Sam Houston Parkway East
Building Q, Office Q1T29
Houston, Texas 77032-3219

Dear Mr. Arsenault:

For many years, the Department of Energy (Department) sold americium-241 (Am-241), from its inventory which was produced many years ago as a byproduct of its weapons production activities. There has been no ongoing separation of Am-241 for sale. However, as you know, the Department's inventory of Am-241 is now exhausted. Consequently, in the near term, the Department will not be able to supply Am-241 to the source manufacturers.

We have explored alternatives for production of a new supply of Am-241. It can be recovered as a byproduct of operations currently conducted at Los Alamos but these recovery operations are very expensive, and they will not be conducted if they interfere with core laboratory missions. Am-241 recovery operations must be funded by advance payments from customers, and they are estimated to cost \$2 to \$4 million dollars. We are continuing our dialogue with other Departmental elements on this issue but in the near term, we will not supply additional Am-241. We regret any inconvenience this termination of supply has caused you and the other members of the Oil Field Services Forum.

Please allow me to assure you that we are continuing to pursue separation of Am-241 at Los Alamos and take this opportunity to express my appreciation for your letter and your interest in this issue. Should you have any questions concerning Am-241, please feel free to contact Mr. John S. Carty, our Marketing Manager, at 301/903-1649.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Owen W. Lowe".

Owen W. Lowe, Associate Director
for Nuclear Facilities Management
Office of Nuclear Energy,
Science and Technology

