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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NRC STAFF SUSPENDS LICENSE OF
INDIANA, PA, REGIONAL CANCER CENTER

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has issued an immediately-effective order modifying and suspending the license which authorizes the Indiana Regional Cancer Center in Indiana, Pennsylvania, to use radioactive strontium-90 for the treatment of superficial eye conditions.

The staff also has sent a separate communication to the Center's Medical Director Dr. James Bauer demanding that he show cause why he should not be prohibited from all NRC-licensed activities.

The order says these actions were taken following an inspection conducted November 11, 1993, which raised serious concerns about the Center's and Dr. Bauer's past and present compliance with NRC regulatory requirements.

The concerns outlined in the order involve:

- the use of a strontium-90 source to perform treatments of two patients for skin lesions on several occasions between September and November 1993 when the only use of the source authorized by the license was for the treatment of superficial eye conditions;
- failure to provide complete and accurate information to the NRC staff during the November 11 inspection; and
- failure to cause an adequate survey to be made which resulted in a November 22, 1992, event at the Center that caused a significant radiation exposure to a patient and other members of the public.

As the result of these concerns, the staff has concluded (1) that it lacks reasonable assurance that the information provided to the NRC by Dr. Bauer, the current Radiation Safety Officer at the Center and the only authorized user on the license, will be complete and accurate; (2) that the Center's current operations

under the license can be conducted in accordance with NRC requirements and that the health and safety of the public will be

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protected; and (3) that Dr. Bauer is either unable or unwilling to assure that Commission requirements are being and will be followed.

Accordingly, the staff has suspended the license effective immediately and has modified it to prohibit Dr. Bauer from engaging in activities under the license. In addition, the Center is to cease and desist from any use of radioactive materials in its possession and to immediately place them in locked storage.

Under the terms of the Order, the Indiana Cancer Center must--and any other person, including Dr. Bauer, adversely affected may--submit an answer to the Order and may request a public hearing within 20 days.

In addition, Indiana Regional Cancer Center is required to submit, within 30 days, information, in writing and under oath or affirmation, that would show why the staff should not revoke the NRC license and why, if the license is not revoked, the staff should have confidence that the licensee will comply with all NRC requirements.

Dr. Bauer also has 30 days to reply, under the same conditions, to the Demand for Information sent to him.