

The Honorable Jim Gibbons
Member, United States
House of Representatives
400 South Virginia Street, Suite 502
Reno, Nevada 89501

July 6, 2000

Dear Congressman Gibbons:

I am responding to your correspondence dated June 6, 2000, to Mr. Dennis K. Rathbun, Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, requesting assistance for your constituent [REDACTED]. During his employment as an x-ray technician in 1956, [REDACTED] indicated that he was involved in an incident with a cobalt-60 source in the State of Washington. [REDACTED] requested the following information: 1) how to locate his records from the incident; 2) what secondary diseases he needs to watch for after an exposure to cobalt-60; and 3) how he can learn whether the company he worked for still exists and, if so, whether it has any funds available to pay for any necessary treatment.

Ex 6

In an attempt to provide information on the first and third questions, we contacted [REDACTED] to obtain additional information that might be useful in locating records. Unfortunately, [REDACTED] was unsure of the exact name of the company in question. He believes the name of the company was Houston Pipeline X-Ray Services. After an extensive search, we have been unable to find a licensee with such a name, or to find any similarly named company. Also, we have not been able to find any records of a 1956 incident involving cobalt-60 radiography in the State of Washington. Thus, we are unable to provide any specific information about this company or the incident.

To locate the records of this incident, we contacted several US agencies. Contact was made with the Washington Department of Health, Division of Radiation Protection, and the Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Radiation Control. The State of Washington became an Agreement State in 1966, which allows it to regulate the use of radioactive material within the State. It would possess any files on previous licensees licensed by the US Atomic Energy Commission. Texas became an Agreement State in 1963. Neither States has any record of a licensee with the name Houston Pipeline X-Ray Services.

Ex 6

We also contacted the US Department of Energy and the Federal Energy Resource Commission to determine if either of them had a record of an incident involving cobalt-60 radiography in the year 1956. Neither agency had information on such an event.

We suggest that [REDACTED] contact the medical facility that treated him after the accident. The facility may have records on his exposure estimates. [REDACTED] indicated during his telephone conversation that he filed a worker's compensation claim after the incident. The US Department of Labor (DOL) has records of all worker compensation claims, and [REDACTED] might wish to contact the DOL for further information.

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Act, exemptions 6
FOIA- 2005-193

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Response: 112003727351

With respect to [REDACTED] second question, the effects of radiation are dependent on the dose received, and are the same irrespective of whether it was x-ray or gamma radiation from cobalt-60. If [REDACTED] wishes to get further information on radiation health effects or dose assessments, he might wish to contact Ronald E. Goans, Ph.D., M.D., or other staff members, at the Radiation Emergency Assistance Center, Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education, Oak Ridge, Tennessee. They may be reached at (865) 576-3131.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

With respect to [REDACTED]'s second question, the effects of radiation are dependent on the dose received, and are the same irrespective of whether it was x-ray or gamma radiation from cobalt-60. If [REDACTED] wishes to get further information on radiation health effects or dose assessments, he might wish to contact Ronald E. Goans, Ph.D., M.D., or other staff members, at the Radiation Emergency Assistance Center, Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education, Oak Ridge, Tennessee. They may be reached at (865) 576-3131.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

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