



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Institute of Standards and Technology
325 Broadway
Boulder, CO 80305-3328

July 9, 2008

Elmo E. Collins
Regional Administrator
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region IV
612 East Lamar Blvd., Suite 400
Arlington, Texas 76011
Facsimile: 817-860-8188

SUBJECT: Request for extension of time

Dear Administrator Collins:

Pursuant to your July 2, 2008 Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) addressed to Dr. James M. Turner, Deputy Director, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), I am writing to request a limited extension, to July 11, 2008, for NIST to provide the information required in subpart 4(a) of the CAL. NIST requires this extension in order to complete its assessment of the release of plutonium into the sanitary sewerage of Boulder, Colorado, as a result of the June 9, 2008 event at NIST Boulder Laboratories. Some of the information critical to the accuracy of our assessment was received as late as today.

It is my understanding from conversations over the last two days with Arthur T. Howell, III of your staff that this limited extension of time was acceptable. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached via electronic mail at jguenther@doc.gov or by telephone at (202) 482-5017.

Sincerely,

John K. Guenther
Senior Counsel
Office of the General Counsel
U.S. Department of Commerce