



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Silver Spring, MD 20910

OFFICE OF OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH

NOV 3 2008

Mr. Arthur T. Howell, III
US NRC Region IV
Director, Division of Nuclear Material Safety
612 E. Lamar Blvd.
Arlington, Texas 76011

Dear Mr. Howell,

This letter is to inform you of the progress made by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) offices holding materials subject to NRC License number 05-11997-01, in response to comments made by your inspectors on October 30-31, 2008 in our facilities. This inspection included a site visit by NRC inspectors, Michael Vasquez, Larry Donovan, and Roberto Torres.

Immediately following your staff's departure briefing, action was taken to:

- 1) notify responsible NOAA Headquarters management personnel, local managers and local staff of issues of concern and their immediate responsibilities, and
- 2) immediately ensure access to radiological materials was performed in accordance with 10 CFR 20.1801 and 1802.

Access control changes which we undertook immediately included re-keying some doors, consolidating some materials in fewer storage areas, and confirmatory checks on doors to assure they remained appropriately secured.

All areas were secured appropriately that same day, Friday October 31, 2008.

In addition, an action plan is under development to address other items which came to light in our meetings which we will discuss with you and your staff throughout this week.

Be assured we take this inspection very seriously, and are taking aggressive action to correct these issues. Please feel free at anytime to contact me directly at 303-497-6378 if you have any concerns with our planning for or performance of these actions.

Sincerely,

Alexander E. MacDonald
Alexander E. MacDonald
Deputy Assistant Administrator for
Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes

cc: John P. Schneider



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