

FAX

EXPEDITED REVIEW REQUESTED

Note: If Mr. Null is unavailable, please alert Mr. Michael LaFranzo (Decommissioning Branch) of this request.

Date: December 22, 2011

To: Kevin G. Null
Senior Health Physicist
NRC Region III
Phone: 630-829-9854
Fax No. 630-515-1259

From: Thomas E. Huston, Ph.D., CHP 
Program Manager/Health Physicist,
VHA National Health Physics Program
Phone: 501-257-1578
Fax: 501-257-1570

Reference: Request for Release of Wing C of Bldg 2, VA Palo Alto Health Care System, Palo Alto, California

Attached: 2 pages

In follow-up to a phone message left for Mr. LaFranzo this morning, I am faxing an **expedited review request** related to decommissioning for Building 2 at VA Palo Alto Health Care System, Palo Alto, California. Please feel free to contact me if any additional information is required to complete this review.



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Veterans Health Administration
National Health Physics Program
2200 Fort Roots Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72114

In Reply Refer To: 598/115HP/NLR

December 22, 2011

Kevin G. Null
Division of Nuclear Material Safety
Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Region III
2443 Warrenville Road, Suite 210
Lisle, Illinois 60532-4352

Re: NRC License 03-23853-01VA

Dear Mr. Null:

As an adjunct to our earlier request dated September 19, 2011, and as an interim measure, we request approval to release for unrestricted use Wing C of Building 2 at VA Palo Alto Health Care System, Palo Alto, California. We are enclosing a memorandum signed by the facility Director which provides supporting information for this request. Pending NRC approval, the facility has a suspense date of January 10, 2012, to turn Wing C over to contractors for demolition. As stated in the enclosed memorandum, demolition of Wing C will not impact former areas of radioactive materials storage or use in the building (which occurred in Wings A and B).

So that we may provide timely approval to facility management under our master materials license, we respectfully request a response by close of business January 6, 2012. We also request that you continue evaluation of our earlier request dated September 19, 2011, and subsequent submissions, to release the entire building.

If you have any questions, please contact Thomas E. Huston., Ph.D., at 501-257-1578, or you may reach me at 501-257-1571. Thank you for your consideration of this expedited request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary E. Williams".

Gary E. Williams
Director, National Health Physics Program

Enclosure

12-21-11P03:40 RCVD

**DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Memorandum

Date: December 15, 2011

From: Director, VA Palo Alto Health Care System, Palo Alto, California (640/00)

Subj: VHA Permit Number 04-23242-01

To: Director, VHA National Health Physics Program (NHPP) (115HP/NLR)

1. On July 19, 2011, we requested that NHPP amend our radioactive material use permit to release, for unrestricted use, Building 2 of the VA Palo Alto Health Care System at 3801 Miranda Avenue, Palo Alto, CA. That request provided a close-out survey report as supporting information. Release of the building is needed to support new construction projects that will improve Veterans access to health care. We have responded to several subsequent requests for additional information based on reviews by NHPP and by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). We understand that the decommissioning review process by NRC and NHPP continues.

2. Except for transitional corridors, Building 2 is divided into three structurally separate wings: Wings A, B, and C. Initial demolition and construction activities planned for January 2012 in the building involve only Wing C. In fact, VA staff will continue to occupy Wings A and B during the demolition of Wing C. The remainder of the Building will be demolished in the summer of 2012. To avoid potentially costly delay claims by construction contractors, we need to turn Wing C over to our contractors no later than January 10, 2012.

3. Former uses of licensed radioactive materials in Building 2 occurred only in Wings A and B of Building 2. No licensed radioactive materials were ever located in Wing C. And planned demolition/construction activities for Wing C and its footprint will not impact rooms in Wings A or B where radioactive materials were formerly used and stored.

4. If a complete release of Building 2 cannot be granted by January 9, 2012, based on information previously submitted, then as an interim measure, we request that NRC and NHPP release Wing C of Building 2 for unrestricted use. This action will allow us to begin the first phase of demolition and construction activities while NRC and NHPP reviews continue on our earlier request to release the entire building continues.

5. As a condition of this partial building release, we will refrain from construction activities that impact former areas where licensed radioactive materials were located, in Wings A and B, until NRC and NHPP grant us release for unrestricted use of the remainder of Building 2.


Elizabeth Joyce Freeman, FACHE

FAX

Date: December 22, 2011

To: Michael LaFranzo
Senior Health Physicist
NRC Region III
Phone: 630-829-9863
Fax No. 630-515-1259

From: Thomas E. Huston, Ph.D., CHP
Program Manager/Health Physicist,
VHA National Health Physics Program
Phone: 501-257-1578
Fax: 501-257-1570

Reference: Supplemental Information for Request for Release of Wing C of Bldg 2,
VA Palo Alto Health Care System, Palo Alto, California

Attached: 1 page

Mike,

Please find attached additional clarification about Wing C. Lance Phillips is the Radiation Safety Officer for VA Palo Alto Health Care System. Please feel free to contact me if any additional information is required to complete this review.

Tom Huston



Huston, Thomas E.

From: Lance J. Phillips [ljpchp@stanford.edu]
Sent: Thursday, December 22, 2011 10:26 AM
To: Huston, Thomas E.
Subject: Re: Need additional information related to Wing C

Yes, I certify and confirm the statement below about Wing C of Building 2 at the VAPA

Lance J. Phillips
Radiation Safety Officer
VAPA
408-307-5271

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 22, 2011, at 7:07 AM, "Huston, Thomas E." <Thomas.Huston2@va.gov> wrote:

Lance,

In relation to your request to demolish Wing C of Building 2 at Palo Alto, NRC is requesting additional information. As the Radiation Safety Officer, can you certify/confirm the following statement as accurate?

Wing C of Building 2 contains no impacted areas (i.e., no impacted rooms, piping, ductwork, filter banks, hold-up tanks, or any other structure or equipment) with respect to the former use or storage of radioactive materials in Wings A and B.

Thanks,

Tom

Thomas E. Huston, PhD, CHP

National Health Physics Program (115/HP)

Veterans Health Administration

Wk: 501-257-1578; Cell: 501-454-7264; Fax: 501-257-1570