



January 20, 2013

**Mr. Lester Tripp
Health Physicist
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety
US. NRC Region I
2100 Renaissance Blvd.
King of Prussia
Pennsylvania 19406**

Dear Mr. Tripp:

I will address the five items you have questioned in the same order you listed them.

- a. The control over the radiation safety program was sub-contracted with Ms. Maria M. Palacios, M.S. and she has been with us for the past sixteen years, since the Nuclear Medicine Laboratory was open at this hospital back in February 1997. Ms. Palacios has never had any problem in exercising authority over authorized users when confronted with radiation safety problems that require implementation of corrective actions. In fact, Ms. Palacios, Dr. Reinaldo Laguna (Director of the Nuclear Medicine Laboratory), and I have enjoyed an uninterrupted excellent professional relationship during all those years.
- b. As can be deduced from the aforementioned statements, there has been no restriction regarding expenditure of funds to facilitate the objectives of our radiation safety program in the past. I can assure you there will not be any in the future. This administration is fully committed to safety, whether radiation safety or general safety.
- c. Ms. Palacios has similar commitments at:
 - Pavia Santurce Hospital
 - Pavia Hato Rey Hospital
 - Cayey Cardionuclear Laboratory
 - Ryder Memorial Hospital
 - C.T. Radiology Complex
 - San Pablo Hospital and as well as five other nuclear medicine laboratories.

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She visits each and every laboratory each and every week of the year. Her routine visits last about an hour, except when in addition of the survey records she examines, she carries out either sealed source inventory, sealed source leak tests, quarterly evaluation reports or deals with NRC communications, etc.

Whatever time she spends at each site and whatever she does, believes me, it works, not only in San Jorge Children's Hospital, but wherever she is RSO, as testified by NRC inspectors who pay us a visit periodically.

- d. The Nuclear medicine technologist has always served as the point of contact, who, in turn, communicates with the RSO as soon as is necessary.
- e. The overall availability of the RSO to respond to questions – the time it takes to connect with her cellular phone. The maximum amount of time it will take the RSO to arrive at the facility the farthest town in Puerto Rico is two hours away by car.

I trust this complies with your request. Please advice on any additional information you may require.

Yours truly,



**Domingo Cruz Vivaldi, MHSA
Senior VP of Operations**

wmb