

January 2, 2015

To: Dennis Lawyer  
Licensing Assistance Team  
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region 1  
2100 Renaissance Blvd., Suite 100  
King of Prussia, PA 19406-2713  
FAX- 610 337-5269

J6  
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Re: Materials License amendment request in letter of December 4, 2014

I have reviewed and concur with the provisions of the proposed amendment to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Materials License 06-03754-01 in the letter referenced above.

Sincerely,



Dr. Theodore Andreadis, Director  
The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station  
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New Haven, CT 06511  
Tel.: 203 974-8440  
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NMSS/RGN1 MATERIALS-002



## *The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station*

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December 4, 2014

To: Licensing Assistance Team  
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region 1  
2100 Renaissance Blvd., Suite 100  
King of Prussia, PA 19406-2713

Re: Amendment to NRC Materials License 06-03754-01 (Docket 03003787)

The purpose of this request is to amend the license to reflect changes resulting from the projected retirement of Dr. Richard B. Peterson [current Radiation Safety Officer (RSO)] on February 1, 2015. Specifically, appointments as Authorized Users of a new RSO and assistant RSO are sought.

Dr. Joseph J. Pignatello has agreed to serve as RSO at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) to replace Dr. Peterson. Dr. Pignatello received his Baccalaureate degree from the University of Minnesota and a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of California Berkeley. His activities focus on organic pollutants in water, soils, and sediments including sorption processes; reactions at carbonaceous surfaces; bioavailability; oxidation processes for treating contaminated water, soil, and air streams; and sunlight-driven reactions of pollutants and organic matter in natural waters. He currently serves as Head of the Department of Environmental Sciences at CAES and Professor Adjunct of Chemical and Environmental Engineering at Yale University. His research has involved use of  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{14}\text{C}$  in his laboratory for several years and his expertise has justified his involvement in administration of the Radiation Safety Program at CAES as assistant RSO since 2003. As an Authorized User on the license, he currently supervises activities by two postdoctoral associates who use  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{14}\text{C}$  in his laboratory. Dr. Pignatello received formal training in the safe use of radioisotopes as part of an EPA-sponsored project on soil degradation of organic pollutants while on the staff of the Gray Freshwater Biological Institute at the University of Minnesota during 1978-1981. He regularly requires the watching of a video describing the safe handling of toxic materials for new personnel in his laboratory.

Dr. Blaire Steven was recently appointed to the position of Assistant Scientist in the Department of Environmental Sciences at CAES. This is to request his inclusion on the license as an assistant RSO to replace Dr. Pignatello. Dr. Steven earned his Masters and Doctoral degrees from McGill University and specializes in the characterization of microbial communities using physiological and molecular techniques. His experience includes use of  $^{14}\text{C}$  and he anticipates use of this radioisotope in his research at CAES. Dr. Steven received a full day yearly of radiation safety training in a program implemented by the McGill Radiation Safety Office during 2003 to 2008. In addition, he participated in Nuclide Worker yearly safety

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sessions while employed as a postdoctoral associate at Los Alamos National Laboratory from 2011 to 2014.

It is noted that Dr. Neil P. Schultes is an assistant RSO on the current license. He has agreed to continue in this post and supervise use of  $^{32}\text{P}$ . So, no change is requested as to his status on the license.

The personnel changes requested involve people of high quality, experience, and dedication. They are the best qualified at CAES to serve in the implementation of safe practices for use of radioisotopes and compliance with the NRC license.

As current RSO, Dr. Peterson is available to respond to any questions or comments concerning this request.

Sincerely,



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