



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE  
Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research  
219 Fort Johnson Road  
Charleston, South Carolina 29412-9110  
November 30, 2015

J-7

Licensing Assistance Team  
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region I  
415 Allendale Road  
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1415

RE: license # 39-19399-02 03017547

Dear Sir/Madam:

On November 30, 2015, Mr. John Bemiss will resign as RSO for license # 39-19399-02. Dr. Tod Leighfield of our staff has been active for a number of years in research using radioisotopes, and we intend to have Dr. Leighfield attend formal RSO training at an early opportunity in the new calendar year and become the designated RSO for our Center. In the interim, Mr. Rick Meitzler, our facility safety officer, will function as a temporary RSO for this license. Mr. Meitzler completed RSO training in 2010 and has over 30 years of environmental safety and health experience. Please advise if any additional documentation is necessary to meet the requirements of our license. I can be contacted at (843)762-8558, and Mr. Meitzler can be contacted at (843) 762-8842.

Respectfully,

COMAR.PAUL.  
G.1365867468

Digitally signed by  
COMAR.PAUL.G.1365867468  
DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government,  
ou=DoD, ou=PKI, ou=OTHER,  
cn=COMAR.PAUL.G.1365867468  
Date: 2015.11.30 09:37:54 -05'00'

Paul Comar  
Acting Center Director

REC'D IN LAT 11/30/15

589451  
NMSS/RGN1 MATERIALS-002

## Cassata, James

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**From:** Cassata, James  
**Sent:** Monday, November 30, 2015 1:53 PM  
**To:** 'Paul Comar - NOAA Federal'  
**Cc:** John Ramsdell - NOAA Federal; Tod Leighfield - NOAA Federal  
**Subject:** RE: NOAA CCEHBR Interim RSO

Mr. Comar,

Thank you for the update concerning your change of RSO. I have submitted your request as a license amendment and have asked to be the reviewer since I am still performing your current inspection. I will work with you on your amendment and change of RSO and process the amendment formally. When it is approved you will receive a letter with the amended license as an attachment.

I will work with Dr. Leighfield on getting any information I need to close the inspection and I will arrange for a mutually convenient time for an inspection exit meeting in the near future to discuss findings.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions in the interim.

Sincerely,  
Jim

James R. Cassata, Ph.D., CHP  
Health Physicist  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region I  
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety,  
Commercial, Industrial, R&D, and Academic Branch  
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<http://www.nrc.gov/>

**From:** Paul Comar - NOAA Federal [mailto:paul.comar@noaa.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 30, 2015 9:48 AM  
**To:** Cassata, James  
**Cc:** John Ramsdell - NOAA Federal; Tod Leighfield - NOAA Federal  
**Subject:** [External\_Sender] NOAA CCEHBR Interim RSO

Good morning, Jim. We trust you have received our comments on the report of recent findings at our research laboratory. John Bemiss and Dr. Tod Leighfield cooperated in developing that response. Meanwhile, John has decided to retire from his contractual position serving as RSO, with today being his last day. He has worked with Tod regularly over the past few weeks on the report and other operational aspects for the position and is at our Center today meeting with Tod and me on transition. I have signed and attached a letter to you indicating our plan for Dr. Leighfield to serve as interim RSO while he applies for formal training, along with our license dated March

14, 2012. Tod is a full time federal employee with many years of radioisotope use and has the concurrence of management to serve in this important role for the Center. I trust this plan meets with your approval, and I will advise you of with the exact course and date of the RSO training. Also, please advise if there is someone else within NRC I should send this letter to directly.

Sincerely, Paul

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Paul Comar

Acting Director, Center for Coastal Environmental Health & Biomolecular Research

National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science

NOAA - NOS

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Charleston, SC 29412

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