



## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Mr. Blake Welling  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
2100 Renaissance Boulevard, Suite 100  
King of Prussia, PA 19406-2713

NOW THE  
OFFICE OF LAND AND  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Date: January 17, 2017

SUBJECT: MEETING TO DISCUSS NRC LICENSES WITHIN EPA

Dear Mr. Welling,

I am the RSO on an NRC License (Docket No. 030-38700; License #16-35119-01) referred to "CBRN CMAD" in this letter. Our license authorizes us to use our radiological sources for "Calibration and checking of the licensee's instruments; field exercises and demonstrations; and teaching and training of individuals in civil defense activities." We have deployed our sources more than 20 times in the past few years and are experiencing an increasing number of requests. As a result, we continue to evolve our program to meet the demands and received three amendments to our license (e.g., adding/removing authorized users, adding isotopes). We continue to receive superior support from your staff, which is one of the reasons for this letter.

Per our previous discussion, I understand we (Mr. Eugene Jablonowski and myself) will be able to meet with you and members of your staff on January 23, 2017 at 0900 hrs. The purposes of our visit are to:

1. to introduce ourselves in person,
2. thank you for the support NRC has provided to our young program,
3. discuss new approaches our program is considering to more efficiently control radiological sources within the agency (e.g., combining NRC licenses at the agency without hindering Regional operations; using Th-230 and Am-241 check sources for field instruments), and
4. seek suggestions or guidance for future amendments to our existing license.

The following information provides more details to help facilitate our discussions:

**Combining Licenses:** Is it possible to consolidate NRC license Docket No. 030-08754; License # 05-14892-02 into the CBRN CMAD License? We would like to maintain "Authorized Use" language in Part D of License #05-014892-02 for national application to EPA regions.

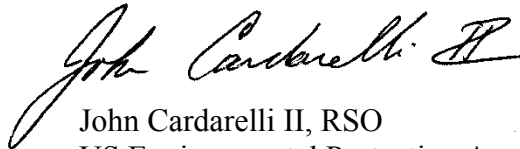
**Th-230 and Am-241 Check Sources:** In support of its radiological emergency response and recovery mission, EPA emergency response personnel in all regions use alpha contamination detectors (typically the Ludlum 43-90) and alpha-beta sample counters (Ludlum 3030 or similar). Emergency responders are frequently in the field or based in remote government offices, the detectors are usually in a response kit that travels with emergency responders in government vehicles. Alpha check sources should be assigned to each detector or counter to support functional/operational checks and calibration in some cases. Th-

230 plate sources with individual activities ranging from 0.003 to 0.2 micro-Curies have been historically used by the EPA to support instrument response checks and calibration. Previously these were assumed to be exempt or fall under 10 CFR 40.22 general license conditions; it now appears that a specific license is required for possession of these Th-230 plate sources. Questions regarding the licensing of Th-230 calibration and reference plate sources are as follows:

1. Can the EPA Emergency Response Program apply for a specific exemption for these sources under 10 CFR 30.11 (Specific Exemptions), or should EPA continue to manage such sources under specific license(s), either the CBRN CMAD license or individual regional specific licenses?
2. In acquiring new plate sources, EPA would like to begin acquiring sources under 10 CFR 31.8 (Americium-241 and radium-226 in the form of calibration or reference sources) general license conditions. However, the one manufacturer of americium-241 and radium-226 plate sources currently does not have a license under 10 CFR 32.57 (Calibration or reference sources containing americium-241 or radium-226: Requirements for license to manufacture or initially transfer) to manufacture or initially transfer for distribution to persons generally licensed under 10 CFR 31.8. Is it then possible for EPA to have its specific license include Am-241 and Ra-226 calibration and reference sources for initial acquisition, but then be allowed to manage them under 10 CFR 31.8 general license conditions after acquisition?

We continue to appreciate all of your efforts on our behalf, and look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,



John Cardarelli II, RSO  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
CBRN Consequence Management Advisory  
Division

cc:

Paul Kudarauskas, Director, Field Operations Branch Chief Division, CBRN Consequence Management Advisory Division.