

BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY

ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES, INC.

Upton, New York 11973

(516) 345-4301

Department of Chemistry

October 3, 1979

Dr. Joseph Hendrie, Chairman  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Joe:

As the incoming Chairman-Elect of the Division of Nuclear Chemistry and Technology of the American Chemical Society I am faced with a serious problem which you may be able to help us with. What is more the act of assisting us might benefit the Nuclear Regulatory Agency.

Almost all of the universities in which nuclear and radiochemistry laboratory courses are still being given (and their number is decreasing) are still trying to make do with equipment originally donated by the Atomic Energy Commission under its education programs. Most of this equipment is 15-20 years old, in poor condition, with no replacements in sight.

There seems to be no source within DOE to support a reinstrumentation program in the universities and the universities themselves find it much too expensive, especially for the relatively small number of students involved.

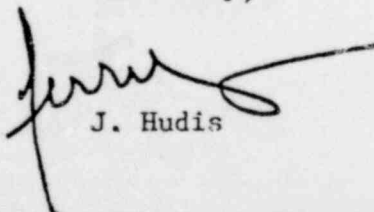
We know that nuclear and radiochemists are, and will continue to be, needed to help solve problems related to reactor chemistry, waste disposal and management, safeguards, etc. all of concern to your Agency. We are deeply concerned with the continued viability of the field because we feel that the science is intrinsically important and that the skills and expertise of its practitioners and students are needed by our society.

It seems to me that the NRC should have a real interest in the training of new generations of nuclear and radiochemists and might be amenable to funding a program to reinstrument ~ 20 university laboratories. We estimate that ~ \$50,000 would be sufficient to rejuvenate each one.

Such a move would probably help the public recognize and appreciate the broad mission of your Agency. Our Division would be glad to help in any way possible, from proposal writing to peer review.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely,

  
J. Hudis

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RECD CHAIRMAN

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Dr. Joseph Hendrie

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P. S. It is interesting that a good fraction of the students taking radiochemistry laboratory courses at the Max-Planck Institut fur Radiochemie in Mainz (West Germany's center for such training) are anti-nuclear types, trying to learn details of the field to be able to combat it more effectively. I can only applaud this, the more knowledgeable the people the better chance we have for reasonable solutions to what everyone agrees are serious problems. I hope that it could happen here.

cc: D. Hoffman  
B. Dropesky

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