



CENTER FOR ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO

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November 29, 1979

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Director Region II, USNRC
Office of Inspection & Enforcement
230 Peachtree Street, N.W.
Suite 1217
Atlanta, Ga. 30303

Dear Gentlepeople:

We would like to apologize for the delay on answering your request. This is due to problems in the distribution of the mail.

At the present time the use of radioactive materials at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus (RUM) has been very limited. The RUM only possess sealed sources and no waste have been generated since the NRC license was granted on August 1978.

However, current issues of NRC and DOT regulatory requirements are kept in the Safety Office and the enclosed procedure for solid waste disposal will be followed in case radioisotopes in non encapsulated form start to be handled at RUM.

Also the required training and auditing will be performed as soon as the waste disposal procedures require to be enforced.

We expect this information will be useful to you. If you need any other information please address your request to me.

Truly Yours,

Nimia E. Irizarry
Health & Safety Office
CEER - University of P.R.
Mayaguez Campus
College Station
Mayaguez, P.R. 00708

NEI/es

Enclosure

cc: Dr. S. Alemañy, Chancellor RUM
Dr. K. Pedersen, Chairman Radiation Safety Committee

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PROCEDURE FOR SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

POLICY

The University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus (RUM) through the Health and Safety Officer has resolved to maintain a continuing effort to reduce and control radioactive solid waste generated in all laboratories.

Most of the wastes to be generated are low level. It is our policy to keep the quantities to the lowest volume and lowest radiation level possible consistent with the use of radionuclides in the research projects and courses going on at RUM.

OBJECTIVES

The handling and disposition of solid wastes must be made in a way that will not endanger the health and safety of the employees, the students and the public; and will not have adverse effects in the environment. It also shall be done in accordance with NRC and DOT regulatory requirements.

PROCEDURES:

1. To be followed by all persons using radioactive materials.
 - 1.1. Assure that there is a radioactive waste can, properly identified in the laboratory where radioactive material is to be used.
 - 1.2. If there is no such a can; call the Safety Officer and inform it.
 - 1.3. handle all radioactive samples over surfaces covered with absorbent paper or any other paper that absorbs any spills and can be easily disposed off.
 - 1.4. Place all radioactive solid wastes in the can provided for that purpose.
 - 1.5. Avoid the missuse of the can by putting non-radioactive wastes in it i.e. keep the radioactive solid waste to the minimum technically possible.
 - 1.6. Inform the Safety Officer as soon as the can is full.
2. To be followed by the Safety Officer
 - 2.1. Place in each laboratory where radioactive material is to be used, a can of considerable volume.

- 2.2. Label the can in the appropriate way easily recognizable by the personnel.
- 2.3. Use a plastic bag as a liner in the can, so that the waste does not come in contact with the can.
- 2.4. Instruct the personnel working in that laboratory on the use of radioactive waste cans.
- 2.5. Inspect and monitor periodically the cans to avoid overflow of waste and unnecessary accumulation of highly radioactive waste.
- 2.6. When there is enough waste accumulated, bring a clean liner, monitor the can, take the full bag, tighten it with masking tape or wire; remove it from the can and replace with a clean liner.
- 2.7. Take the full bag and making sure it is not broken, carry it in a safe way to the radioactive waste storage room. If it is broken cover it with a new bag.
- 2.8. Label the bag as to which isotopes are being used in each laboratory that generates the wastes.
- 2.9. Prepare the wastes for compaction. The wastes are to be compacted in steel drums DOT Spec. 17-H using a Hydraulic Hand Press. The drums will be stored until a considerable number of them are filled and then they are sent to a commercial burial site in the USA.

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