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TUFTS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE - NEW ENGLAND MEDICAL CENTER HOSPITAL

DEPARTMENT OF THERAPEUTIC RADIOLOGY
HEALTH PHYSICS DIVISION
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September 17, 1979

Boyce H. Grier, Director
NRC Region I Office
631 Park Ave.
King of Prussia, Penn. 19406

Re: Response to IE Bulletin 79-19
NRC License #20-02307-07
Tufts University, Medford, Ma.

Gentlemen:

The radioactive materials packaging and shipping responsibilities at Tufts University, Medford, Ma. are permanently assigned to the Health Physics Division of the New England Medical Center Hospital, which is in charge of overseeing all activities involving radioactive material. Further, all radioactive waste is transferred to a commercial radioactive waste disposal firm (Interex Corp., Natick, Mass.). Although the specialists employed in the Health Physics group at this institution are all familiar with and have access to the DOT and NRC regulations regarding radioactive waste, their task is simplified in that they need only be familiar with the current regulations imposed by the waste disposal contractor. Training and retraining of these Health Physicists may therefore be limited to a brief upgrading session whenever a change in the regulation occurs. All other personnel in the institution are clearly notified in writing in the published procedures manual that all radioactive material leaving the institution must be processed through Health Physics.

With respect to the volume and types of radioactive waste generated by this institution during the past 18 months, the following quantities apply:

- 1. a) Number of shipments 4
- b) Volume 90 ft³
- 2. a) Curie quantity 0.01 Ci
- b) Major isotopes ¹⁴C, ³H, ³²P

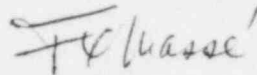
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3. Liquid low level waste is added to one-gallon jugs containing diatomaceous earth in the laboratories. When the absorbent (which 3/4 fills the jugs) no longer completely absorbs the liquid being added, the lab personnel notify Health Physics, who pick up the jugs, top them off with fresh absorbent, seal them, and enclose them in a 55 gallon 17H drum which contains additional absorbent. While the above process varies somewhat with the instructions supplied by the waste disposal contractor, it results in a much less hazardous set of procedures than the bulk solidification procedure prescribed. This procedure variation has been approved by Interex and by the burial site.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

Yours truly,



F.X. Masse
Radiation Safety Officer

cc: NRC Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Division of Fuel Facility and Materials Safety Inspection
Washington, D.C. 20555

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