



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Leo Higginbotham, Assistant Director
Division of Fuel Facility and
Materials Safety Inspection, IE

FROM: Donald A. Nussbaumer, Assistant Director
for Material Safety and Licensing
Division of Fuel Cycle and
Material Safety, NMSS

SUBJECT: RADIATION SAFETY OFFICER AT HOWARD
UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON, D.C.

On February 20, 1980, Patricia Vacca, MLB, returned a telephone call to Mr. Edwin Njoku. Mr. Njoku said that he had acted as Radiation Safety Officer at Howard University, Washington, D.C. following the October, 1979 departure of Dr. Warren Schadt, the University's former Radiation Safety Officer. Mr. Njoku further said that he is no longer associated with the University even though he is listed as "Temporary" Radiation Safety Officer on the University's January 2, 1980 application to renew its broad license, No. 08-00386-19.

We are concerned whether radiation safety matters are being handled adequately at the University. In addition to the broad license, the University is authorized to possess and use: 80 grams of plutonium-239 in a subcritical assembly and in a neutron Howitzer (SNM-563) and 2500 kilograms of natural uranium in a subcritical assembly (SUD-584). Howard University Hospital holds a medical license authorizing Groups I-VI and Californium-252 for patient treatment (License No. 08-03075-07) and a teletherapy license (License No. 08-03075-06). Dr. Warren Schadt is still named as Radiation Safety Officer on each of these licenses.

We would appreciate your looking into these matters and informing us of the results of your findings. Dr. John Glenn, Region I, is aware of our concerns.

Donald A. Nussbaumer
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for Material Safety and Licensing
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