

University of Wisconsin-Parkside
Kenosha, Wisconsin 53141
Telephone: AC 414 553-2211



Office of the Chancellor
November 16, 1979

Mr. A. B. Davis, Chief
Fuel Facility and Materials Safety Branch
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
799 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

Dear Mr. Davis:

This letter replies to your notice of noncompliance with NRC regulations, dated October 25 and received in this office on October 29, 1979, which resulted from an inspection of our facilities and activities under NRC By-produce Materials License 48-15342-02. Our only item of noncompliance was a failure to make leakage or contamination tests of our Nickel-63 source at proper intervals. I requested that Dr. Keith B. Ward, our Radiation Safety Officer, make the appropriate tests immediately and report to me in writing the test results and the steps he would take to insure that the tests would be repeated on the proper cycle.

Dr. Ward informs me that on or about November 5 we had a serious failure in the liquid scintillation counter that he uses to count his tests. The machine is seven years old and is in heavy use. He tells me that we have one estimate that the repair cost will be in the neighborhood of \$6,000. The wait to see if the problem was relatively minor has delayed him in counting his tests; he is now proceeding to arrange another detector system. I expect him to furnish me with the information from the tests and the procedural changes he is proposing in time for me to reply to you on December 3.

Please contact me if you have questions concerning our efforts to comply as quickly as possible with the terms of the license and the requirements of the NRC.

Sincerely,

Alan E. Guskin

Alan E. Guskin
Chancellor

AEG:js

cc: Prof. Keith Ward, Radiation Safety Officer
Prof. Homer Knight, Chairman, Radiation Safety Committee

2118 039

NOV 19 1979

7912070

065