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

JAN 29 1980

License No. 56-12953-01

Department of Agriculture
ATTN: Antonio S. Quitugua
Director, Administrative Services
Government of Guam
P. O. Box 2950
Agana, Guam 96910

Gentlemen:

This refers to the inspection conducted by Mr. H. E. Book of this office on October 31, 1979 of activities authorized by NRC License No. 56-12953-01 and to the discussion of our findings held by Mr. Book with you, Mr. Artero and other members of your staff at the conclusion of the inspection.

Areas examined during this inspection are described in the enclosed inspection report. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observations by the inspector.

No items of noncompliance were observed within the scope of this inspection. However, the inspection revealed matters which we believe to be of significance to radiation safety and which potentially could result in a serious problem. The gamma irradiator authorized by this license, and which contains about 950 curies of cobalt-60, has not been used for about ten years, and has not been leak tested for about nine years. The Department of Agriculture, Government of Guam has no persons trained or experienced in radiation safety and no operable radiation detection or measuring instruments. Thus, if a problem developed with the device, it very likely would not be recognized for some time. This could result in a serious radiological hazard to the people of Guam. Exposure of the irradiator to the warm, moist, marine climate of Guam promotes corrosion and other deterioration, increasing the possibility of a problem.

We believe there is little likelihood that the fruit fly eradication project for which the irradiator was used will ever be revived and there appears to be no purpose to continuing this license in effect. Therefore, this is to inform you that the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards does not intend to renew NRC License No. 56-12953-01 when it expires on September 30, 1980. In such an event, it will be necessary for you to dispose of the irradiator containing the radioactive material.

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

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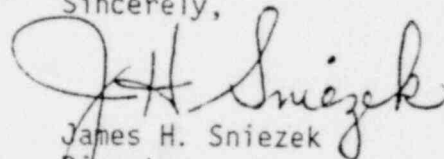
JAN 29 1980

You should submit to this office within thirty (30) days of your receipt of this letter, a written statement describing your plans for disposing of the radioactive material. Additionally, within sixty (60) days of your receipt of this letter you should submit to this office a firm schedule for disposing of the radioactive material. Our subsequent actions will depend upon your response to this letter.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter and the enclosed inspection report will be placed in the NRC's Public Document Room. If this report contains any information that you believe to be proprietary, it is necessary that you submit a written application to this office, within twenty (20) days of the date of this letter, requesting that such information be withheld from public disclosure. The application must include a full statement of the reasons why it is claimed that the information is proprietary. The application should be prepared so that any proprietary information identified is contained in an enclosure to the application, since the application without the enclosure will also be placed in the Public Document Room. If we do not hear from you in this regard within the specified period, the report will be placed in the Public Document Room.

Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, we will be glad to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,



James H. Sniezek
Director
Division of Fuel Facility and Materials
Safety Inspection
Office of Inspection and Enforcement

Enclosure:
Inspection Report 79-01

cc: Department of Public Health
and Social Services
Bureau of Environmental Health
P. O. Box 2816
Agana, Guam 96910
ATTN: John C. Rosario
Administrator