

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Fisheries Center Beaufort Laboratory Beaufort, N. C. 28516-9722 July 7, 1989

Mr. Earl Wright Nuclear Materials Safety Section U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Region II Suite 2900 101 Marietta Street, N. W. Atlanta, Georgia 30323

Dear Mr. Wright:

The staff of the Beaufort Laboratory, Southeast Fisheries Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, will be working on an experiment involving the uptake and incorporation of sulfur-35 labelled methionine into "stress proteins" by sea urchin larvae exposed to polluted water from estuaries and harbors. These experiments will be carried out on board NOAA research vessels. The first cruise is planned aboard the RV Ferrel between Boston, Massachusetts and New Haven, Connecticut from July 23 to August 4, 1989. The amount of isotope taken on a cruise will total less than 3 millicuries and no radioactivity will be released to the environment. Waste will be returned to the Beaufort Laboratory for proper disposal. These experiments will be carried out under the supervision of Dr. Susan Huntsman who is experienced in working with radioactive isotopes. We request that our current license for the scientific use of radioisotopes (No. 32-00426-02) be amended as necessary for these experiments to be carried out on board research vessels.

Please call me at FTS 670-9737 if you have any questions.

Sincerely vours,

Linda C. Clerne Linda C. Clements

Radiation Safety Officer

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