University of Cincinnati

Department of Biological Sciences

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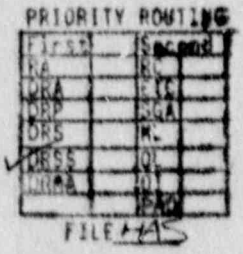

August 30, 1989

Mr. Don Sreniawski
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory
Commission
Region III
799 Roosevelt Rd.
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Dear Mr. Sreniawski:

As per our phone conversation on August 30th, I wish to question the current policy concerning the transportation of radioisotopes from the Radiation Safety Office of the University of Cincinnati to the Biology Department located in Rieveschl Hall. As we discussed earlier, upon arrival of a radioisotope which has been ordered by a particular laboratory, the present procedure dictated by the Radiation Safety Office with which we must comply, is that we must retrieve said radioactive material. This procedure forces a person from a laboratory on the west campus of U.C. to drive over to the Radiation Safety Office, using his personal vehicle, pick up the radioisotope and personally transport it back to his laboratory. Not only is the Radiation Safety Office nearly 2 miles away from the west campus, which necessitates the use of an automobile, but there is also insufficient parking available, since the office is located in the University Hospital. This lack of sufficient parking also poses the additional problem of a long walk through hospital corridors and streets carrying radioactive materials. I have discussed my concerns with Ken Fritz, the Radiation Safety Officer, as have several others in the past and his response was simply that the committee had discussed it and found it to be an acceptable procedure.

To reiterate my concerns, I do not feel that it is my responsibility, as a Research Assistant, to transport radioactive materials in my car but rather it is the responsibility of the Radiation Safety Office to see that these materials are transported safely to the laboratory or at least to our building (Rieveschl Hall). This problem could be solved by establishing a branch office in Rieveschl (since the major users, Biology and Chemistry are housed there) which could serve as a drop off/pick up point for radioactive materials. In this way, a Radiation Safety Officer could deliver the radioisotopes to this particular room in a University vehicle which would be periodically monitored for radioactivity to limit the possibility of contamination. If the Radiation Safety Office does not want to have a

branch office, then a Radiation Safety Officer should personally deliver the radioisotopes to each laboratory as is commonly done at other Universities.

I appreciate your time and assistance with this important matter. I hope a reasonable solution can be reached to prevent future problems.

Sincerely,

Elisa Berger

Elisa Berger
Research Assistant

Richard D. Karp, Ph.D.
Professor
Supervisor

cc: A. Mukkada
J. Caruso
E. Bingham
K. Fritz