

APPLIED HEALTH PHYSICS INC
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western union

Mailgram



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VICTOR STELLO JR DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT
U.S. REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON DC 20555

EA-80-40
Recd 7/21/80

THIS WILL CONFIRM TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS OF JULY 3 AND 14 WITH NRC REGION I OFFICIALS CONCERNING SPECIFIC PROBLEMS AND RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUIREMENT TO MEET THE JULY 18 DEADLINE FOR COMPLETION OF REPACKAGING AND DISPOSAL OF BIOLOGICAL AND RADIOLOGICAL WASTES. THE HEALTH AND SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THESE OPERATIONS ARE OF PARAMOUNT CONSIDERATION TO US AND TO THE COMMISSION. TO MY KNOWLEDGE THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SUCH OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED. THE POTENTIAL INFECTIOUS RISKS FAR OUTWEIGH THE RADIOLOGICAL ONES. RECENTLY WE HAVE FOUND A NUMBER OF DRUMS THAT CONTAIN PACKAGES INDICATING HEPATITUS VIRUS AND OTHER UNSPECIFIED BIOHAZARDS. TEMPERATURES IN THE CONTAINMENT CELL ARE IN EXCESS OF 95 DEGREES AND CREATE SEVERE STRESS TO OUR PERSONNEL WEARING DOUBLE ANTI-C'S. SHORTAGES OF SUPPLIES AND OTHER EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES THAT WERE UNFORESEEN ARE EXPLAINED IN DETAIL IN MY LETTER TO YOU.

I CAN ASSURE YOU WE ARE MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO COMPLETE THESE OPERATIONS AS SAFELY AND EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE AND TRUST THAT YOU WILL REVIEW THE INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY YOUR INSPECTORS AND US AND RECOGNIZE THE NEED TO ESTABLISH ANOTHER TARGET DATE FOR A SAFE COMPLETION. OUR BEST ESTIMATE AT THIS TIME IS THAT THIS WOULD BE WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. I WOULD WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THIS BY TELEPHONE OR IN PERSON.

ROBERT G GALLAGHER PE CHP
PRESIDENT
APPLIED HEALTH PHYSICS INC

23:19 EST

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