

OCT 19 1989

Docket No. 70-734
License No. SNM-696

General Atomics
ATTN: Mr. Keith Asmussen
Manager, Licensing, Safety,
and Nuclear Compliance
P.O. Box 85608
San Diego, California 92138-5608

Gentlemen:

We note that in your December 21, 1988, letter to Mr. Robert D. Thomas of our Region V office, you stated that 38 laboratories had been released. While it is correct that the ORAU confirmatory survey for the Group 1 and Group 2 laboratories has been completed and the results indicate that the labs meet the guidelines for release to unrestricted use, these labs have not been removed from the General Atomics (GA) license as authorized places of use. In your December 21, 1988, and January 30, 1989, letters to our Region V office, GA requested confirmatory surveys for Group 3 laboratories in Building 2 and Stage 1 of the "Hot Suite" area of Building 9. Again, no amendment application to remove these areas as authorized places of use has been received. In your August 31 and September 13, 1989, letters to our Region V office, GA has requested confirmatory surveys for the Group 4 laboratories in Building 2 and Stage 2 of the "Hot Suite" area of Building 9; these requests were not accompanied by a license amendment request to have these areas removed from the license. Our Region V office is coordinating the confirmatory survey of these areas with ORAU.

Because these areas in Buildings 2 and 9 have not been removed from the license, precautions should be taken to assure that licensed material is not allowed in these areas. In the future, no confirmatory surveys will be conducted until we have received a license amendment application. Any request for a license amendment to delete areas as authorized places of use should include license fees and supporting decontamination surveys, and should be addressed to this office.

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In conversations between Mr. Asmussen of GA and Mr. David McCaughey and Ms. Merri Horn of my staff, GA was informed of the need to submit a license amendment request to remove these labs from GA's license. This request should provide a list of all labs to be covered by the request. As these labs have not been removed from the license, please provide a discussion of the precautions taken by GA to assure that licensed material has not been allowed in the areas in which confirmatory surveys have been conducted. Your prompt attention to this matter is requested.

Sincerely,

Leland C. Rouse, Chief
Fuel Cycle Safety Branch
Division of Industrial and
Medical Nuclear Safety, NMSS

cc: G. Yuhas, RV

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