



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
HEALTH SERVICE ADMINISTRATION

U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE HOSPITAL
3100 WYMAN PARK DRIVE
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21211

27 April 1981

Mr. John Kinneman
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region I
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

Dear Mr. Kinneman:

In response to the Notice of Violation, Docket No. 30-11392 dated April 2, 1981, I have requested an investigation as to how the situation occurred and what corrective steps have been taken. As a result of this inquiry, I have been informed of the following.

1. The piece of equipment in question, a Radiation Machinery Corporation ECI-600A6 extracorporeal blood irradiator, was located in our Radiology Department and used in the Baltimore Cancer Research Program (BCRP) of the National Cancer Institute. The BCRP was located at this hospital until September of 1978.
2. At that time the BCRP moved to the University of Maryland. They were unable to relocate several pieces of medical equipment, which then remained at this Hospital. Among this equipment was the RMC irradiator.
3. In October of 1979, Dr. Linnell Murphy, our Radiation Safety Officer and Chief of the Radiology Department was assigned to the National Institutes of Health, thereby severing a source of personal contact and knowledge about the (BCRP) equipment. At the same time a policy decision was made to discontinue all types irradiation therapy within the Hospital.
4. A new Radiation Safety Officer was appointed in November 1979 and the Radiation Safety Committee was reorganized in February 1980. They were not aware of the status of the stored equipment which included the RMC irradiator.
5. Recent program changes required that space within the Nuclear Medicine/Radiology Department be renovated. This necessitated the removal of the surplus equipment stored in this area.
6. Our newly appointed Property Management Officer contacted Mr. Hillel Soclof, Administrative Officer of BCRP and requested the necessary action be taken to remove the equipment. He agreed, the paper work was prepared, NIH transportation contacted, and the move was made on February 9, 1981. Mr. Soclof stated he was unaware of any problem until he was notified by the NIH Radiation Safety Officer that the RMC irradiator was among the items returned from the PHS Hospital.

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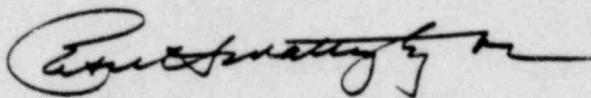
7. Because the irradiator had been in storage for approximately 3 years, the knowledgeable staff gone for more than a year and no statement on the transportation request that a radiation source was among the equipment being shipped, there were no indications to alert our Property Management Officer that other than the routine NIH surplus equipment transfer procedure was required.

Upon notification by the NIH Radiation Safety Officer, we immediately verified that the transport of the irradiator did not pose a threat to anyone nor had there been any exposure problems. The NIH license permits them to receive the amount of strontium-90, approximately 14.5 curries contained in the irradiator. See attached letter dated February 26, 1981.

Our Radiation Safety Officer is fully aware of the requirements for transport of radioactive materials, and will be notified, in advance, of any movement of irradiating equipment or radioactive material listed on our license. This procedure was followed upon our subsequent disposal of a cobalt-60 teletherapy unit, without incident. See our letter of April 21, 1981 regarding this subject.

I affirm the above to be accurate and that we are now in full compliance with the conditions of our NRC license.

Sincerely,



Patrick H. Mattingly, M.D.
Director

Enclosure:

Letter from NIH
Radiation Safety Officer
Dated 2-26-81
Certificate of Disposition of Materials
Dated 3-4-81

JRR/mat

CERTIFICATE OF DISPOSITION OF MATERIALS

(All Blocks MUST BE Completed)

LICENSEE NAME AND ADDRESS
U.S. Public Health Service Hospital
3100 Wyman Park Drive
Baltimore, Maryland 21211

LICENSE NUMBER
19-03520-05

LICENSE EXPIRATION DATE
November 30, 1981

The licensee or any individual executing this certificate on behalf of the licensee certify that: (Check and/or complete appropriate item(s) below.)

- 1. No materials have been procured by licensee.
- 2. ~~AS~~ materials procured and/or possessed by licensee under license number shown above, have been transferred to: _____
National Institutes of Health
_____ which has license number: **19-00296-11**
- 3. Disposed of in compliance with 10 CFR 20.
- 4. Licensed under license number _____ issued by _____

_____, an Agreement State pursuant to Section 274 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended and, the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974.

REMARKS: (If additional space is needed, use reverse side)

A Radiation Machinery Corporation ECI-600A6 extra-corporeal blood irradiator containing approximately 14.5 Curies of SR-90 (item 6M on our license) was transported from our hospital to NIH by the Division of Cancer Treatment, NCI, NIH.

PLEASE RETURN TO:

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Washington, D.C. 20555

CERTIFYING OFFICIAL

SIGNATURE

Patrick H. Mattingly, M.D., Director

DATE

March 4, 1981