



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

December 19, 1989

The Honorable Virginia Smith
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Smith:

This is in response to the inquiries of Richard K. Turner concerning the use of cobalt-60 in an irradiator in Nebraska.

Nebraska has entered into an Agreement with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and under its terms the use of cobalt-60 by a commercial firm in an irradiator would be subject to licensing and inspection by the Division of Radiological Health of the Department of Health. No person may use cobalt-60 in an irradiator in Nebraska without first obtaining a license from the State authorizing possession of cobalt-60 for this purpose. An applicant for such a license must satisfy the State's requirements for such a license, must operate in accordance with the terms and conditions of the license, and is subject to inspections and enforcement action by the State.

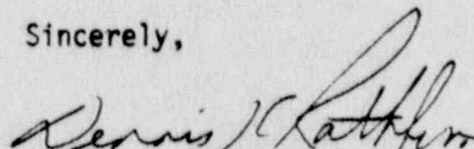
For detailed information on the State's program for licensing such a facility, I am forwarding Mr. Turner's questions to the State. The State contact is:

Harold R. Borchert, Director
Division of Radiological Health
Department of Health
301 Centennial Mall, South
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509
402-471-2168

Agreement State programs, such as Nebraska's, are scheduled for annual reviews by the NRC. These reviews include assessments of the State program's technical capabilities in licensing and inspection. The most recent NRC routine review of the Nebraska radiation control program was conducted in 1988 and the program was found to be adequate to protect the public health and safety.

If we can be of further assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely,


Dennis K. Rathbun, Director
Congressional Affairs
Office of Governmental and
Public Affairs

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cc: H. R. Borchert

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Original signed by/

Dennis K. Rathbun, Director
Congressional Affairs
Office of Governmental and
Public Affairs

cc: H. R. Borchert

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