

JUL 17 1981

License No. 46-00990-01

Veterans Administration Hospital
Radioisotope Service
4435 Beacon Avenue South
Seattle, Washington 98108

Attention: Mr. Jerome R. Dolezal
Hospital Director

Gentlemen:

Subject: State Inspection at the U. S. Ecology, Inc. Burial Site, Richland,
Washington

This letter refers to the routine safety inspection conducted by Ms. Mary L. Blazek, State of Washington, Department of Social and Health Services on June 2, 1981 of your shipment of low-level radioactive waste containers received for burial at the U. S. Ecology, Inc. Burial Site in Richland, Washington.

This inspection was an examination of the shipment in regard to required shipment documentation, placarding of the vehicle, labeling and condition of containers, and a radiation survey pursuant to 49 CFR 170-189, Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations as referenced in NRC regulation 10 CFR 71.5.

The violations for which you have been cited have already been the subject of enforcement action by the State of Washington. On June 2, 1981, the State of Washington suspended the burial permit and banned the Veterans Administration Hospital from use of the burial site. In view of the circumstances surrounding this matter, we have exercised our discretion under the Interim Enforcement Policy (45 FR 66754) October 7, 1980, and have chosen to issue at this time the enclosed Notice of Violation. After reviewing your response to this Notice of Violation and your proposed corrective actions, the NRC will determine whether further NRC enforcement action is necessary in order to ensure compliance with NRC regulatory requirements.

During this inspection, it was found that your shipment was not in compliance with DOT/NRC regulations. The items and references to the pertinent requirements are listed in Appendix A. These items have been categorized into severity levels as described in the Federal Register Notice (45 FR 66754) dated October 7, 1980.

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DATE	7/15/81	7/16/81	7/16/81			

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Your response to this notice is to be submitted in accordance with the provisions of 10 CFR 2.201 as stated in Appendix A, Notice of Violation.

If you have any questions on this matter or concerning this inspection, please telephone Mr. R. D. Thomas on 415-943-3700.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
G. S. Spencer

G. S. Spencer, Director
Division of Technical Inspection

Enclosure:
Appendix A - Notice of Violation

Sent to Reproduction, HQ, for distribution.

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