

MAR 14 1990

In Reply Refer To:  
License: 30-26860-01  
Docket: 030-29613/90-01

New Mexico State University  
Primate Research Institute  
P.O. Box 1027  
Holloman AFB, New Mexico 88330

Gentlemen:

This refers to the routine, unannounced radiation safety inspection conducted by Mr. G. Michael Vasquez of this office on January 18, 1990, of the activities authorized by NRC Byproduct Material License 30-26860-01, and to the discussion of our findings held by the inspector with members of your staff at the conclusion of the inspection.

The inspection was an examination of the activities conducted under the license as they relate to radiation safety and to compliance with the Commission's rules and regulations and the conditions of the license. The inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews of personnel, independent measurements, and observations by the inspector.

During this inspection, certain of your activities were found not to be conducted in full compliance with NRC requirements. Consequently, you are required to respond to this matter in writing, in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.201 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations. Your response should be based on the specifics contained in the Notice of Violation enclosed with this letter.

We are concerned about the implementation of your program in the area of management controls that permitted these violations to occur. As indicated by the inspector at the exit briefing, the radiation safety officer (RSO) is a key component of your radiation safety program, and we expect to be notified of changes in the status of your RSO. Also, we are concerned that the RSO had not performed the basic functions of inventory control and an adequate review of your monthly surveys.

Although not a violation of your license, the inspector noted at least two instances where laboratories were found to be contaminated several months in a row, at levels ranging from 1,000 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup> to 100,000 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup> of S-35, Cr-51, H-3, or C-14. Although the laboratories were decontaminated and resurveyed in each instance, no investigation was performed to find out the cause for the repeat contamination incidents.

RIV:NMIS *nmw*  
GMVasquez:nh  
03/12/90

C:NMIS *CLC*  
CLCain  
3/12/90

D:DRSS  
ABBeach *for*  
3/13/90

9003270323 900314  
REG4 LIC30  
30-26860-01 PDC

*DmB  
IE-07  
1/1*

These items indicate that management controls may be weak in regard to your radiation safety program. Consequently, in reply to this letter, you should describe those specific actions planned or taken to improve the effectiveness of the management control of your licensed operations with particular emphasis on measures currently being taken to prevent further violations.

The inspector also reviewed the actions you had taken with respect to the violations observed during our previous inspection conducted on January 5-6, 1988. He verified that the corrective actions for all violations had been implemented as stated in your reply dated May 18, 1988.

The response directed by this letter and the accompanying Notice is not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, PL 96-511.

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:  
LAWRENCE A. YANDELL *for*

A. Bill Beach, Director  
Division of Radiation Safety  
and Safeguards

Enclosure:

Appendix - Notice of Violation

cc:

New Mexico Radiation Control Program Director

Department of the Air Force  
USAF Radioisotope Committee  
ATTN: David G. Wood, Colonel, USAF, BSC  
HQ AFOMS/SGPR  
Brooks AFB, Texas 78235-5000

bcc:

DMB - Original (IE-07)  
ABBeach  
Glenda Jackson OC/LFMB (4503)  
\*WLFisher  
\*NMIS  
\*RIV Files (2)  
\*REHall, URFO

RD Martin  
LAYandell  
\*CLCain  
\*GMVasquez  
\*MIS System  
\*RSTS Operator

\*W/766