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MAY 24 1990

03616053

Advanced Medical Systems, Inc.
ATTN: Ms. Sherry Stein, Director
of Regulatory Affairs
1020 London Road
Cleveland, OH 44110

License No.: 34-19089-01

Dear Ms. Stein:

In response to your February 16 and March 1, 1990 letters, enclosed is a copy of portions of the transcript from the Commission Briefing held on February 15, 1990, pertaining to Advanced Medical Systems, Inc. I am not aware of any handouts that were provided to the public at the briefing.

Sincerely,

George M. McCann (for)
Bruce S. Mallett, Ph.D., Chief
Nuclear Materials Safety Branch

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/ltrs dtd 02/16/90
& 03/01/90, w/enclosure:
S. S. Stein, AMS
DCD/DCB (RIDS)

bcc w/ltrs dtd 02/16/90
& 03/01/90, w/enclosure:
J. Lieberman, OE
J. Goldberg, OGC
S. Lewis, OGC
R. Bernero, NMSS
J. Glenn, NMSS
C. E. Norelius, RIII
A. B. Davis, RIII

IE01
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RIII
Mallett/jl
5/24/90

RIII
Berson
5/24

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Title: PERIODIC BRIEFING ON OPERATING REACTORS AND FUEL FACILITIES

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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PERIODIC BRIEFING ON OPERATING REACTORS
AND FUEL FACILITIES

- - - -

PUBLIC MEETING

Nuclear Regulatory Commission
One White Flint North
Rockville, Maryland

Thursday, February 15, 1990

The Commission met in open session, pursuant to notice, at 9:00 a.m., Kenneth M. Carr, Chairman, presiding.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

KENNETH M. CARR, Chairman of the Commission
THOMAS M. ROBERTS, Commissioner
KENNETH C. ROGERS, Commissioner
JAMES R. CURTISS, Commissioner
FORREST J. REMICK, Commissioner

STAFF SEATED AT THE COMMISSION TABLE:

SAMUEL J. CHILK, Secretary

WILLIAM C. PARLER, General Counsel

JAMES TAYLOR, Executive Director for Operations

ROBERT BERNERO, Director of Operations, NMSS

WILLIAM RUSSELL, Regional Administrator, Region I

STEWART EBNETER, Regional Administrator, Region II

A. BERT DAVIS, Regional Administrator, Region III

ROBERT MARTIN, Regional Administrator, Region IV

JOHN MARTIN, Regional Administrator, Region V

JAMES SNIEZEK, Deputy Director, NRR

DENNIS CRUTCHFIELD, Associate Director for Special Projects

ones. The present status of Surry warrants the continuation of increased NRC inspection. We have three resident inspectors on site and the additional headquarters and the regional attention to their weak areas.

That's all I have on Surry, if you have some questions.

CHAIRMAN CARR: All right. Let's proceed.

MR. EBNETER: That's all I have.

Bert?

MR. DAVIS: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, I have no reactors to discuss today. I do have three materials facilities, the WESF capsules primarily oriented toward the Radiation Sterilizers Company, the Advanced Medical Systems facility, and 3M.

First, the WESF capsules. Concerns regarding these WESF capsules arose when a capsule leaked at the Radiation Sterilizers' facility in Decatur, Georgia. At the May 1989 senior management meeting, we concluded that RSI should stay on the list of facilities requiring increased NRC attention until the capsules at Decatur and Westerville, Ohio had been transferred to DOE in Richland, Washington. Shipments were delayed in 1989 due to defective casks. The defects have now been corrected and shipping casks are

available.

DOE currently estimates that capsules will be removed from Decatur by August of this year and from Westerville by October of this year. There are some 180 capsules involved.

The destructive testing of the failed capsule, the one that failed at Decatur, has been delayed as a result of DOE concerns with the facility in which it was to be tested at Oak Ridge. A decision has been made by DOE to conduct this testing at Pacific Northwest Laboratories. Testing is expected to begin in about three months and preliminary results are expected in the summer of 1990.

There are also WESF capsules in use at two other facilities. One of these is in Virginia and the other in Colorado. A Commission paper discussing the use of these capsules will be sent to you shortly from NMSS.

Regarding the Radiation Sterilizers facility, we plan to continue to provide increased headquarters and region attention until all capsules have been returned to DOE.

That concludes what I intended to say about that. Any questions?

Advanced Medical Systems. As you will

recall, Advanced Medical Systems concerns related to the contamination of the facility, the need to make some facility modifications, and the need to determine if proposed staff changes were adequate for future operation. There has been some progress made since the May 1989 senior management meeting. The licensee has a contamination control program. We will continue to inspect this program as they increase the fabrication of sources. The program looks all right to us, but we have to continue to monitor it as it is implemented.

The hot cell contamination levels have been reduced. We have done an evaluation of the level in the hot cell now and have determined that further work to decontaminate it more is not justifiable.

A temporary hot cell ventilation system has been installed at the facility. The license was renewed in December of 1989. As part of this renewal, a schedule for designing and installing the permanent hot cell ventilation system has been tied down as a license condition.

The new radiation safety officer appears capable and technically competent according to my inspectors. He still needs, however, to gain knowledge and apply attention to the commitments and

requirements in the tie down condition of its licenses.

The fire protection modifications still need to be resolved between NRC and the licensee and we are working on that now.

We performed an inspection in late January and some concerns were identified and we plan to work with the licensee. In fact, we've already started to do that by telephone, but we will be meeting with the licensee to pursue those findings.

Based on the progress which has been made, we've concluded that the current level of enhanced regional attention is appropriate for this licensee.

Any questions on Advanced Medical Systems?

COMMISSIONER REMICK: Where are they shipping waste? Do they have any problem shipping the waste from the decontamination?

MR. DAVIS: One of our findings is that they haven't shipped enough waste yet and we have a commitment from them by telephone the other day that they would ship some remaining waste by the end of this year. They did, however, ship some during the decontamination to one of the burial sites. I think one of the problems with some of the waste that they still have is that the radiation levels in the drums

are higher than they can ship. So, they would have to repackage or something.

COMMISSIONER REMICK: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CARR: All right. Region IV?

MR. DAVIS: I have 3M yet, sir.

CHAIRMAN CARR: Oh, excuse me.

MR. DAVIS: As you will recall, the concerns with 3M were related to their distribution of static eliminators which released polonium 210 microspheres at various general licensees' and some specific licensees' facilities. At the May '89 senior management meeting, we concluded that 3M should stay on the list of facilities requiring enhanced headquarters and region attention until the devices were retrieved and until proper management oversight was applied to the activities at 3M.

The license has been modified, distribution of the devices continues to be suspended and 3M is now permitted to manufacture these devices but to only use them for R&D purposes at their own facilities.

We performed an inspection of all 3M source productions in November of 1989. In that inspection, we found that their performance was acceptable, their quality control had improved, it is aggressive and competently done. Their performance could further be