HOWARD M. METZENBAUM

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3502

JUDICIARY

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April 28, 1993

Mr. Ivan Selin Chairman Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The purpose of this letter is to urge you to investigate a situation regarding potential radioactive contamination stemming from a medical manufacturing plant in Cleveland, Ohio. We are deeply concerned about the health and safety of area residents who may have been and may continue to be exposed to harmful contamination from this site.

As we understand it, the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District has filed a lawsuit against Advanced Medical Systems, a maker of cancer-treatment equipment, for contaminating a local sewer treatment plant with cobalt-60. Apparently, NRC's own records show cobalt-60 contamination in the medical manufacturer's own building and surrounding area.

Cobalt-60, a radioactive isotope, has been linked to cancer and other serious health problems. Yet every day, schoolchildren walk past the medical plant in Cleveland. A playground and swimming pool are within a block of the contaminated site. Obviously, it is also disturbing that radioactive contamination at the sewer plant was at high enough levels to require a multimillion dollar cleanup.

Local officials and concerned area residents have raised serious questions about the extent of the contamiration and the actual dangers posed by it. According to Cleveland officials, the NRC never notified the City of this potentially hazardous situation. They have also expressed concern about the NRC's

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ability to adequately regulate the safe handling of cobalt-60. We believe these concerns are legitimate and respectfully ask that you personally look into the situation and report back to us your findings as quickly as possible.

Very sincerely yours,

Howard M. Metzenbaum United States Senator

Louis Stokes Member of Congress

Eric Fingerbut Member of Congress John Glenn

United States Senator

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Martin R. Hoke Member of Congress

Sherrod Brown

Member of Congress

CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE SYSTEM DOCUMENT PREPARATION CHECKLIST

	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DOCUMENT(S)
	TYPE OF DOCUMENT Correspondence Rearings (Qs/As
	DOCUMENT CONTROL Sensitive (NRC Only) Non-sensitive
	CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE and SUBCOMMITTEES (if applicable)
	Congressional Committe
	Subcommittee
5.	SUBJECT CODES
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	(b)
	(c)
6.	SOURCE OF DOCUMENTS
	(a) 5520 (document name
	(b) scan- (c) Attachments
	(d) Rekey (e) Other
7.	SYSTEM LOG DATES
	(a) Date OCR sent document to CCS
	(b) Date CCS receives document
	(c) Date returned to OCA for additional information
	(d) Date resubmitted by OCA to CCS
	(d) Date resubmitted by OCA to CCS (e) Date entered into CCS by