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KALAMAZOO COLLEGE

October 7, 1990

Roy J. Caniano, Chief
Nuclear Materials Safety, Sec. 2
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
799 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Re: License No. 21-13658-01
Docket No. 030-00830

Dear Sir:

This is in response to your letter of September 26, 1990 regarding findings during a routine safety inspection conducted by Mr. J. W. Patterson on September 5-6, 1990.

In a letter sent to Bill Adam of your Materials Licensing Section on September 21, we noted that Dr. Carolyn R. Newton of our Biology Department has been designated Radiation Safety Officer. It also was noted that two individuals who served in this position previously, Drs. Richard D. Piccard and John E. Somerville, have left Kalamazoo College.

Following up on information that was provided to us by Mr. Patterson, I have sent an inquiry to the DOE Savannah River Operations Office regarding the possibility of disposing of our Plutonium-Beryllium neutron source through them. It is our hope that our Physics Department can eliminate radioactive materials from our curriculum and premises within the next twelve months.

To respond to the specific items listed in your Notice of Violation:

1. The Victoreen Model 471 radiation survey meter was not calibrated during the summer of 1989 (while I was away from the college on sabbatical leave). I personally will see that the calibration is performed on an annual basis as long as this is required. Given the increasing cost of calibration and slow service we have experienced, we will be looking into alternative approaches for satisfying this requirement.
2. The total inventory of Hydrogen-3, including that in waste form, was at times permitted to exceed the licensed limit in effect between 1983 and 1989. This resulted from an oversight by the individual who was Radiation Safety Officer at the time, who mis-read the license. Our license since has been amended to increase the limit to 5 mCi, and we anticipate no difficulty in keeping our total inventory, including wastes, under this limit. Dr. Newton, our present RSO, will monitor the total accumulation of Hydrogen-3 carefully.
3. I believe it was a result of a misunderstanding, on the part of past Radiation Safety Officers, that the surveys to determine adequacy of shielding for the Cobalt-60 and Pu-Be sources were not performed quarterly, but only prior to use of the howitzer. I will personally perform these surveys to ensure that they are carried out at the specified intervals, until we dispose of these sources.

Please advise me if there is any further concern with the corrective steps described above. I believe that we are presently in full compliance with the terms of our NRC byproduct material license.

Sincerely,
Wayne M. Wright
Wayne M. Wright, Chairman
Department of Physics

copy: Richard Cook, Provost
Carolyn Newton, RSO 1200 Academy St., Kalamazoo, MI 49007

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