

West Virginia
University

MEDICAL CENTER
MORGANTOWN, WEST VIRGINIA 26506

School of Medicine
Department of Radiology
Division of Medical Physics and Radiation Safety
Telephone: 304-293-3413

May 23, 1982

Francis A. St. Mary
Materials Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle and Material Safety
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. St. Mary,

This letter is to confirm and provide additional details on our telephone conversation of 22 July 1982 concerning the application by West Virginia University for an amendment to license number 47-01163-20 to store radioactive waste in leased space in the building formerly occupied by the Bailey Glass Company.

We have at present approximately 250 barrels (55 gallon drums) of radioactive waste, most of which is stored in a double-wide trailer. The recent inspection by R.A. Brown of the N.R.C. Region II office raised questions about fire protection in this structure; a copy of his notice of deviation is attached. In addition, the volume of material stored within the trailer has raised additional fire safety problems because access to the fire exits is becoming difficult.

Up until 1978, we shipped our radioactive waste to Barnwell, South Carolina. The changes there made this impractical. More recently, we shipped our radioactive waste to Richland, Washington. Beginning in May 1981, the State of Washington insisted that the generator of the waste, even if another governmental body, sign a certification form which includes an indemnity agreement. It is the opinion of our legal advisor that the State constitution does not permit us to sign such an agreement. The State of Washington has indicated that it is willing to accept an appropriate insurance policy, but the state insurance commissioner has been unable to arrange for such a policy. Further legal questions have hinged on the acceptance of the waste by second parties, and their acceptance of responsibility for it. It is the opinion of our legal advisor that under the State of Washington regulations, they would be acting as a broker and that the generator of the waste would still have to sign the certification, including indemnity agreement.

We have begun incinerating animal carcasses in a pathological incinerator under 10 CFR 20.306. We would like to obtain a

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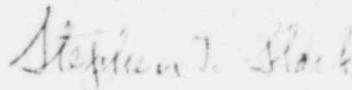
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hazardous materials incinerator, and begin incinerating liquid scintillation fluids under the same regulation. (The company which handles our non-radioactive hazardous waste will not accept them.) We would, at that time, apply for an amendment to incinerate other low level radioactive waste. The intention here is to have very little which is not either incinerated or held for decay. We anticipate that the Spring of 1984 is the earliest we could have a suitable incinerator in place. Therefore, we have leased space with enough area for two years of additional accumulation of waste.

Other departments and units of the university are leasing storage space in the same building, and it is anticipated that there will be little if any use of any other nature. Because of the concern about the fire hazard, an engineering firm has been contacted about designing a CO₂ system for the area. A copy of a letter on that subject is attached.

As a temporary measure, we are moving some of our barrels to Hodges Hall, where we already are using radioactive material and have appropriate security. One of the rooms had been set aside as a meter calibration area, and the other is borrowed from the Physics Dept.

Sincerely,



Stephen T. Slack, Ph.D.
Radiation Safety Officer

copy: H.H. Harper, Asst. Vice President
J.E. Jones, Vice President
W.E. Collins, Vice President

STS/tds