

AUG. 29 1990

Docket No. 030-18925  
CAL No. 1-90-015

License No. 37-01553-04

Germantown Hospital  
and Medical Center  
One Penn Boulevard  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19144

Gentlemen:

Subject: Confirmatory Action Letter No. 1-90-015

On August 27, 1990, your maintenance representative and your staff reported to NRC Region I an incident involving potential malfunction of the timer on a teletherapy machine operated at your facility. The apparent malfunction of the timer resulted in the addition of a small increment of time (a few seconds) to the desired treatment time while a patient was undergoing treatment. Pursuant to a telephone conversation between you and Dr. M. Shanbaky of this office on August 29, 1990, it is our understanding that you have taken or will take the following actions with regard to the use of Theratronics Model 80 (T-80) teletherapy machine involved in that incident:

1. Provide an independent method of timing the use of your T-80 so that you can terminate therapy immediately at the prescribed time. We understand that independent timing is being used now and will continue for future teletherapy treatments.
2. Revise your written operating procedures for the T-80 to include the precautionary measures described in 1. above.
3. Provide increased management and supervision oversight of operations involving the T-80 to verify that all involved personnel are in full compliance with operating procedures. We understand such measures are now in place.
4. Provide training to all involved personnel on the August 27, 1990 teletherapy incident and lessons learned and on the procedural changes described in 2. above. The training will be completed by September 4, 1990.
5. Immediately terminate ongoing treatment and suspend future treatment if any further equipment malfunction occurs. Immediately notify the NRC Region I directly (215-337-5000) or through the NRC, Headquarters Operations Center (301-951-0550) of such equipment malfunction prior to the resumption of patient treatment.

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Further, we understand that all actions established by this letter will be adhered to and will not be changed until you receive authorization from the Regional Administrator, NRC Region I.

The response directed by this letter 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. In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 (a), a copy of this letter will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Issuance of this Confirmatory Action Letter does not preclude the issuance of an Order formalizing the above commitments. If your understanding differs from that set forth above, please call me immediately.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

*William F. Kane*

for Malcolm R. Knapp, Director  
Division of Radiation Safety  
and Safeguards

cc:  
Public Document Room (PDR)  
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

bcc:  
Region I Docket Room (w/concurrences)  
Management Assistant, DRMA  
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J. Goldberg, OGC  
R. Cunningham, NMSS  
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