



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

JAN 31 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Bernard Singer, Chief
Material Certification and Procedures Branch

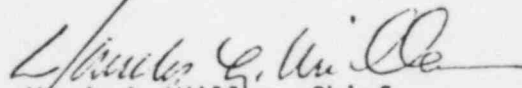
FROM: Vandy L. Miller, Chief
Material Licensing Branch

SUBJECT: IRIDIUM-192 SEEDS IN NYLON
RIBBON FROM RAD/IRID, INC.,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

During the past several years NRC has received reports from hospitals such as Ellis Fischel State Cancer Hospital (Columbia, Missouri), Rockford Memorial Hospital (Rockford, Illinois) and Providence Hospital (Anchorage, Alaska) that iridium-192 seeds, supplied as seeds encased in nylon ribbon, have been lost or left in patients. We are concerned that these problems may be generic in that poor manufacturing or quality control procedures may allow the seeds to fall out of the nylon ribbon, thus contributing to the reported incidents.

Iridium-192 seeds in nylon ribbon, listed in Group VI, Section 35.100 of 10 CFR Part 35, are available from RAD/IRID, Inc. in Washington, D.C. We request that you review RAD/IRID's procedures and inform us of your findings.

These sources are also available from Alpha-Omega Service, Inc. in Paramount, California. Enclosed is a memorandum to State Programs requesting that the State of California also review this matter.


Vandy L. Miller, Chief
Material Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle and
Material Safety

Enclosure: Memorandum to
G. W. Kerr, SAP

cc: Leo Higginbotham, IE