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V.A. Edward Hines, Jr.
Medical Center
ATTN: James Jones
Associate Director
Hines, IL 60141-5000

License No. 12-01087-07
Docket No. 030-01391
License No. 12-01087-09
Docket No. 030-09222

Dear Mr. Jones:

This refers to the routine safety inspection conducted by Messrs. John D. Jones and Dave Nelson of this office on February 22-25, 1994, of activities authorized by NRC Byproduct Material License No. 12-01087-07 (broad scope), and License No. 12-01087-09 (teletherapy) and to the discussion of our findings with you at the conclusion of the inspection.

The inspection was an examination of activities conducted under your license as they relate to radiation safety and to compliance with the Commission's rules and regulations and with the conditions of your license. The inspection consisted of a selective examination of procedures and representative records, observations, independent measurements, and interviews with personnel.

During this inspection, certain of your activities under your broad scope license appear to be in violation of NRC requirements, as specified in the enclosed Notice. A written response is required.

With regard to License No. 12-01087-09 (teletherapy), no violations of NRC requirements were identified during the course of this inspection.

In addition to the above areas, the inspectors examined actions regarding violations found during our June 15 - June 16, 1993 inspection. We have no further questions regarding Violation No. 1. However, the corrective action taken for Violation No. 2, the failure to survey the waste compactor room for removable contamination on a weekly basis as required by referenced application dated June 15, 1984 and as stated in your response to our Notice of Violation in letter dated July 16, 1993, was determined by the inspectors to be inadequate. The type of materials expected to be present in this location include pure beta emitters not capable of being detected by the gamma detector being used to measure the samples taken. In your response to these violations, please describe why your proposed corrective actions are expected to be more successful in preventing future or similar violations than the corrective actions implemented after the June 15, 1994 inspection.

In addition to the violations, the inspectors identified three areas of concern for License No. 12-01087-07 (broadscope) during the inspection:

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1. The contents (flammable material) in the room housing the Cesium-137 blood irradiator, and the absence of any fire protection systems constitute an area of concern due to the potential for a serious fire that could result in damage to the shielding integrity of the irradiator resulting in potential for exposure to radiation from the large sources of radioactive material contained in the irradiator.
2. The inspectors expressed concern that no measurements have been made to confirm that the unvented compactor is not producing airborne releases. The licensee is requested to provide an evaluation in accordance with 20.1501 and 20.1302 that provides assurance that insignificant quantities of radioactive material will be released into the room from the unvented and unfiltered compactor.
3. The inspectors expressed concern that surveys of research laboratories do not always include the floors. The licensee is requested to demonstrate that more emphasis will be placed on performance based audits of research laboratories that stress proper survey techniques.

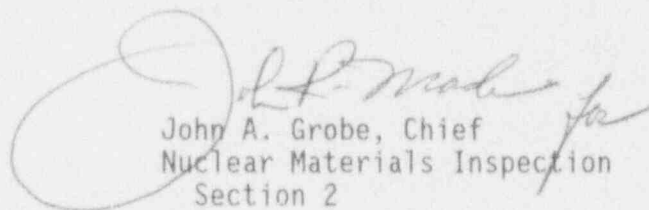
In your response to this letter please describe what actions have been or will be taken to insure that all reasonable actions are taken to address each of the areas of concern.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the Commission's regulations, a copy of this letter, the enclosure, and your response to this letter will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

The response directed by this letter and the accompanying Notice are 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.

We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this inspection.

Sincerely,


 John A. Grobe, Chief
 Nuclear Materials Inspection
 Section 2

Enclosure: Notice
 of Violation

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