

SEP 19 1990

Docket No. 030-09588  
Cal No. 1-90-016

License No. 08-03604-04

Washington Hospital Center  
ATTN: Rosemary Clive  
Executive Director,  
Cancer Institute  
110 Irving St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20010

Gentlemen:

Subject: Confirmatory Action Letter No. 1-90-016

On September 18, 1990, Mr. David Dickey of your staff, reported to NRC Region I an incident involving the malfunction of a teletherapy machine operated at your facility. The malfunction of the machine resulted in the addition of a small increment of time (12 seconds) to the desired patient treatment time. Pursuant to a telephone conversation between you and Dr. M. Shanbaky of this office on September 19, 1990, it is our understanding that you have taken or will take the following actions with regard to the use of the Theratron 780 (T-780) teletherapy machine involved in that incident.

1. Immediately terminate ongoing treatment and suspend future treatment.
2. Determine the cause(s) of the teletherapy machine malfunction and take appropriate corrective action, including all necessary repairs and calibrations to ensure safe conduct of teletherapy operations.
3. Review and revise your written emergency operating procedures of the T-780 to ensure that timely and appropriate action is taken to minimize radiation exposure to patients and personnel.
4. Provide training to all personnel involved in the September 18, 1990 teletherapy incident. Training will include lessons learned, any procedural changes described in item 3 above, and sensitization of the staff to the need to follow procedures. The training will be completed prior to the resumption of teletherapy treatment.
5. Immediately notify the NRC Region I directly (215-337-5000) or through the NRC Headquarters Operations Center (301-951-0550) of the cause of the teletherapy machine malfunction, affected repairs and other corrective action completed.

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Further, we understand that all actions established by this letter will be adhered to and will not be changed unless 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,

*R. W. Cooper, Jr.*

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

cc:  
Public Document Room (PDR)  
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)  
District of Columbia

bcc:  
Region I Docket room (w/concurrences)  
Management Assistant, DRMA  
J. Lieberman, OE  
J. Goldberg, OGC  
R. Cunningham, NMSS  
T. Martin, RI  
M. Knapp, RI  
D. Holody, RI  
R. Bellamy, RI  
M. Shanbaky, RI  
M. Cahill

RI:DRSS  
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