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Center for Atmospheric Studies

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August 16, 1990

Mr. Robert J. Pate, Chief
Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards Branch
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region V
1450 Maria Lane, Suite 210
Walnut Creek, California 94596

Dear Mr. Pate:

In reply to your letter of July 17, 1990, regarding "Subject: NRC Inspection and Notice of Violation," we submit the following.

A. The reason for the violation was the remoteness of the station in American Samoa. We relied on having our own personnel do the wipe tests every six months when they visited the station. Wipes were missed because of the degradation of the travel facilities to get to Samoa. Accordingly, our person who was assigned the responsibility for maintaining the station made less frequent trips. This person is no longer employed by OGI. In part this action will help avoid further violations.

Our complete corrective steps were taken in February 1990 by giving instructions to the permanent personnel in American Samoa on how to wipe the ECDs in the HP5880 and also by providing wipe test kits to the personnel when wipes are due.

B. The reason for non-compliance was lack of knowledge of the necessary requirements to ship excepted radioactive material. We were informed by Mr. Pate and Mr. Zurakowski of the correct requirements and certification to transport excepted radioactive material on June 11, 1990. We do not have any immediate plans to transport radioactive materials.

Sincerely,

R.A. Rasmussen, Professor

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