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# Ball State University

Academic Affairs  
Office of Research

1993 SEP 35 III 8: 12

September 27, 1993

To: James M. Taylor  
Executive Director for Operations

From: Alice S. Bennett *A. S. Bennett*  
Radiation Safety Officer

Re: Exemption request  
License #13-06231-01

This is to request an exemption from payment of annual fees. Payment of such fees would create severe financial hardship to Ball State University. Further it is in the public interest that the university be exempted from such fees. The rationale follows.

The primary mission of Ball State University is teaching. Radioisotopes and sources are used for in vitro studies, laboratory research and student instruction. The research programs at the university are student oriented and provide hands-on experiences for students. Many of these students use their learning experiences at Ball State in graduate research. Student assistants to the Radiation Safety Officer have become employees of NRC related laboratories. Students who have received training through our training program have also entered the teaching field and have used their knowledge in their teaching.

Although Ball State University is a state aided institution and is classified as having a large population base, the scope of our radiation program is small. At present, the total cost of the operation to the university is less than \$18,500. Thus a user fee of over \$18,000 would make it difficult for the university to continue its educational and research mission in areas requiring the use of radioactive materials.

In 1993, Ball State had 19 approved users and 20 approved laboratories and classrooms. In each of the last three years less than \$20,000 has been spent on radioisotopes ordered by approved users.

In the first year of the biennium, 1993-95, state appropriations for Ball State University did not meet inflationary increases. In the second year there will be no increase. At present the university is attempting to reduce operating costs wherever possible (and at least 4%) without endangering our mission of excellence in education. The university is not in a position to absorb further costs.

In January, 1991, at our request the threshold limits for our license was significantly reduced. In July, 1992, we further limited our research use to in vitro studies, thus restricting in vivo work and reducing risk.

Thus, the annual fee will result in a significantly disproportionate allocation of costs to Ball State University. The scope and size of the radiation program at Ball State is small and should not require such excessive costs for maintenance and supervision of the license for the NRC.

We believe that granting an exemption from annual fees would be in the best interests of the public and of Ball State University.

pc: B. Pitts, Associate Provost  
S. Walker, Chair, Radiation Safety Committee

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