

**Veterans
Administration**

AUG 22 1990

In Reply Refer To:

Mr. Roy J. Cantano
Chief, Nuclear Materials Safety Section 2
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region III
799 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, IL 60136

Subj: Response to NRC Materials License No. 21-00159-04 Inspection on June 5, 1990

This letter is in response to the NRC inspection of our facility on June 5, 1990. During that inspection, concern was expressed by the NRC inspector, Mr. Gary L. Shear, regarding our protocol for solid radioactive waste compaction. Enclosed is the protocol utilized for the compaction of solid waste. Because nonvolatile radioactive waste only will be compacted, air sampling procedures have been deemed unnecessary. This protocol has been approved by our Radiation Safety Committee.

Please direct any questions to the Radiation Safety Officer, Mr. Joseph Wissing, at the above address. We hope that this protocol fulfills your request.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael Moravec".

Jule D. Moravec, Ph.D.
Director

Enclosure

cc: Milton Gross, M.D., Chairman (115)
Joseph Wissing (OOR)

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PROTOCOL FOR RADIOACTIVE WASTE COMPACTION

General Rules:

1. Only dry, solid radioactive waste is to be compacted. Bags of solid waste with evidence of free standing liquid should not be compacted.
2. Volatile radioisotopes (iodine isotopes) should not be compacted.
3. Compaction of radioactive waste is to be performed only by the Radiation Safety Officer or designate. The designate must be trained by the Radiation Safety Officer and approved by the Radiation Safety Committee.
4. Heavy work gloves, lab coat, safety shoes, radiation badges, and eye protection are to be worn at all times.

Specific Protocol:

1. Prepare a 55 gallon drum by placing two heavy duty plastic bags inside the drum. The two bags should line the inside of the drum.
2. Add approximately two gallons of absorbing medium to absorb any liquid that may be present in the bag. Put the drum on the waste compaction cart.
3. Label the drum for inventory purposes.
4. Identify the waste to be compacted as to the isotope and activity. Record the waste to be compacted along with the drum label.
5. Check the bag of solid waste for any free standing liquid. If there is no visible free standing liquid, place the bag of waste into the 55 gallon steel drum.
6. Poke several holes in the top of the solid waste bag to prevent the bag from popping during the compression cycle.
7. Roll the cart into position for compaction. Place the security chain around the drum to prevent the drum from sliding away from the compactor during the compression cycle.
8. Press the start button and stand at least six (6) feet away from the compactor during the compression cycle.
9. When the compactor has completed the compaction cycle, remove the security chain, roll back the cart and inspect the waste for uniform compaction of the bag.
10. Continue as described above until the 55 gallon drum is full. Once full, the 55 gallon drum plastic bag liners should be pulled up enclosing the compacted waste.
11. Cap and seal the 55 gallon drum with a lid and bolt tight.
12. Summarize and record the compacted waste along with the drum label for inventory purposes.

NOTE: IF ANY PROBLEMS (SPILLS, LEAKS) ARISE, STANDARD RADIOACTIVE SPILL CLEAN UP PROCEDURES WILL BE FOLLOWED WHICH ARE POSTED IN THE WASTE STORAGE ROOM.

8/12/90 JRW