



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

AEOD/N102

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Carlyle Michelson, Director
Office for Analysis and Evaluation
of Operational Data

THRU: C. J. Heltemes, Deputy Director
Office for Analysis and Evaluation
of Operational Data

FROM: Kathleen Black, Lead Engineer
Office for Analysis and Evaluation
of Operational Data

SUBJECT: IRRADIATOR INCIDENT AT AN AGREEMENT STATE LICENSEE'S FACILITY
(BECTON-DICKINSON, BROKEN BOW, NEBRASKA)

Enclosed is a brief report by the AEOD Non-Reactor Group on the above incident. We have also enclosed backup material in the form of reports from the licensee and the irradiator designer (Atomic Energy of Canada Limited) to the Nebraska Department of Health and a letter from the irradiator designer to S. Pettijohn.

An ANSI committee is presently involved in writing an ANSI standard that addresses irradiator incidents of this type. Mr. Donovan Smith, Office of Standards Development, as a member of the committee has informed us that a regulatory guide based on the ANSI standard is to be written once the standard is issued. The standard is presently in draft and issuance is expected by the end of the year.

The AEOD review was undertaken as a test case. It is not entirely clear that the incident or its consequences warrants transmittal of the AEOD report to other offices. The arguments pro and con distribution of the report are as follows:

Pro

The incident has generic implications.

The incident could probably have been averted by simple operating procedures.

No firm time table is available for issuance of the new regulatory guide.

Con

The incident did not result in any overexposures.

An ANSI standard is being developed for these irradiators; following its publication, a regulatory guide will be developed.

C. Michelson

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I recommend that you transmit the report to Agreement States, IE, and NMSS.
Transmittal letters are attached for your use.

Kathleen Black

Kathleen Black, Lead Engineer
Office for Analysis and Evaluation
of Operational Data

Attachments:
As stated