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ALL AGREEMENT STATES
MASSACHUSETTS, OHIO, OKLAHOMA, PENNSYLVANIA

SURVEY OF NRC AND AGREEMENT STATES RECORD FILES FOR RECORDS
RELATED TO RESEARCH INVOLVING HUMAN SUBJECTS (SP-94-028)

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the NRC Staff's February 4, 1994 paper to the Commission relative to the subject survey. This survey, which was conducted on available and accessible information, is limited to pre-1975 information. You will note that copies of the Agreement State letters responding to my January 10, 1994 request (SP-94-011) are also included in the Commission paper, as well as a brief synopsis describing each State's written and oral response.

I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your assistance and cooperation, given the limited timeframe, in providing NRC with information on your State files. The NRC intends to assist in obtaining further information from the Agreement States if requested by the Presidential Task Force and will keep you abreast of any such requests.

Original Signed By
RICHARD L. BANGART
Richard L. Bangart, Director
Office of State Programs

Enclosure:
As stated

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

February 28, 1994

ALL AGREEMENT STATES
MASSACHUSETTS, OHIO, OKLAHOMA, PENNSYLVANIA

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Richard L. Bangart

Richard L. Bangart, Director
Office of State Programs

Enclosure:
As stated



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20885-0001

February 4, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Chairman
Commissioner Rogers
Commissioner Remick
Commissioner de Planque

FROM: James M. Taylor
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: SURVEY OF NRC RECORD FILES FOR RECORDS RELATED TO RESEARCH
INVOLVING HUMAN SUBJECTS

This memorandum summarizes the following: (1) the results of the staff's survey to determine what readily available Commission and Agreement State files may have information about licensees that may have conducted research studies using AEC licensed radioactive materials, or the radiation therefrom, on human subjects; (2) a description of the types of human research currently authorized by Nuclear Regulatory Commission materials licenses and the review criteria for those authorizations; and (3) a summary of future actions.

Survey Results

The staff's survey of available and accessible information is limited to pre-1975. This conforms with later guidance provided in President Clinton's January 15, 1994, Executive Order: "Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments" (Enclosure 1) which, among other things, established the advisory committee, instructed the committee to review human experiments conducted from 1944 to May 30, 1974, and defined "human radiation experiments."

- A. Information sources. The staff identified the information sources described in Enclosure 2 that may be helpful in locating specific files for retired or archived license documents and identifying facilities that may have had human research programs in the late 1940's and early 1950's.
- B. Survey of Currently Active and Available Files. To determine the extent of human use research information available in the active NRC license files, the regions targeted certain kinds of licenses and reviewed them for evidence of pre-1975 studies using humans in research (see Enclosure 3). The regions were not asked to review files for examples of participation by patients or healthy individuals in trials for the

Contact: Donna-Beth Howe
504-2636

Enclosure

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development of drugs containing radioactive materials. The staff believed, with the proposed survey's time and resource constraints, this type of research had to be excluded in order to capture the types of nutritional, scientific, military, and other human-use research studies of interest to the public and the media. The Office of State Programs also asked the Agreement States to review their active files for the same type of information.

The regions identified a sample of 80 licensees that met the selection guidance (e.g., large research and medical licensees) identified in the memorandum in Enclosure 3, and reviewed the available records for each. Based on licensing and inspection documents, 46 licensees were identified that may have conducted non-radiopharmaceutical development human research. The majority of the studies involved limited quantities of tracers used in metabolic studies on research subjects. Human research subjects may be healthy individuals, patients included in research studies unrelated to their conditions, or patients included in research studies of their conditions. None of the active files contained the names of the human subjects participating in the studies.

There were indications that some researchers used institutionalized individuals (prisoners and mental patients) as well as military personnel and Department of Veterans Affairs patients in their studies. Because most of the information came from copies of licenses and not the licensees' requests and clarifications, questions concerning informed consent or ethical appropriateness of patient selection were generally not addressed. A summary of the regional reviews (which includes a small number of available retired files from Region V) is provided in Enclosure 4, and a summary of Agreement State findings, to date, is provided in Enclosure 5.

Since this review was limited to available information in the active license files, it was difficult to confirm whether licensees were conducting human research before 1975. In a number of cases, the active license files contain no pre-1975 information. Both the retirement of terminated licenses and archiving of the old materials license and backup information are important factors in not being able to determine if licensees were actually conducting human research before 1975. A better picture of the human research studies might be achieved by a systematic search of the archived files. However, this would be a very resource intensive review because the files are in multiple locations and manual searches are needed and may only duplicate the Department of Energy's (DOE's) ongoing review efforts. The archived files are stored in boxes that contain commingled medical, human use, and industrial research and development license files. Before 1965, there were 10,674 docket files/general license files and folders. From 1965 to 1985, there were over 20,000 active byproduct materials license and inspection files.

In response to a specific request by a Philadelphia television reporter, Region I redacted the privacy information from the active files of 15 large medical use licensees. Two of these files were reviewed during the survey for human research information and the remaining 13 will be reviewed before release. A knowledgeable regional reviewer will be available to assist the reporter and put the information in the files into context.

- C. **Limited Review of Retired and Archived Documents.** Region V reviewed specific available retired license files for human research information on studies performed by the Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory (NRDL) at Camp Parks, California, and Camp Stoneman, California. One study involved deliberate skin contamination with a short half-life radionuclide, on the arms of individuals, to test decontamination effectiveness. A document in the NRDL file lists the names of radiation workers and volunteers who received radiation doses while participating in the "Camp Stoneman II" decontamination exercises.

NMSS reviewed specific retired license files for human research studies performed at the Walter E. Fernald School for the Retarded, in Waltham, Massachusetts. The Fernald school license backup information indicated that consent would be provided for the research subjects. Other retired files for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Massachusetts General Hospital, and Harvard University have been retrieved because these facilities may have participated in earlier studies at the Fernald School. However, these files have not been reviewed at this time.

- D. **The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Requested Information.** DOE requested assistance in locating AEC licensing information on Camp Parks decontamination studies and the radioactive nutritional research on students at the Walter E. Fernald School for the Retarded, in Waltham, Massachusetts. Region V provided DOE with copies of the Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory license documents for Camp Parks and "Camp Stoneman II" studies. NMSS staff identified a human-use AEC license issued in 1966 (expired in 1968) to the Fernald School for a different radioactive research project. The Fernald School is now part of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center which has an active license for non-human uses. NMSS provided documents from the Fernald School and Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center license files to DOE on January 5, 1994. These records also identified license guidelines for review of the experiments and include reference to obtaining parental-guardian consent. The staff has established contacts within DOE for coordination and will attempt to provide information, as requested.

DOE also requested early AEC documents describing procedures used to approve licensing requests for research on human subjects. NMSS staff reviewed available historical reports of the AEC (i.e., available Semiannual Reports of the AEC from 1947 to 1960), and available meeting minutes of the Advisory Committee on Isotope Distribution (established January 1948) and the Advisory Committee on Medical Uses of Isotopes (established in 1958).

Two referenced documents were identified as possible sources for guidance on the use of normal subjects for experimental purposes. These documents are: "The Medical Use of Isotopes: Recommendations and Requirements," published in 1955 by the AEC Isotopes Division; and the AEC Licensing Guide - Medical Programs, "A Guide for the Preparation of Applications for the Medical Use of Radioisotopes," published February 1957 and designated RC-12. To date, neither document can be located. We located a copy of the 1965 AEC license guide that superseded the 1957 document and will provide a copy to DOE. Staff is continuing to search for the two licensing guides referenced above, and, if successful, will provide copies to DOE.

- E. **Post-1975 License File Information.** Although the survey was limited to before 1975, one of the regions did observe and record that 12 licensees were authorized to conduct human research after 1975 (under the controls discussed below). No additional information was gathered by NRC about the post-1975 human research authorizations.

Current NRC Practices for Authorizing Human Use Research

- A. **Regulations.** NRC regulations in Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 30, explicitly specify that the general authorization for research and development does not include administration of byproduct material, or the radiation therefrom, to human beings. NRC's regulations and licenses do permit research into the development of new drugs using byproduct material and for obtaining scientific information at institutions meeting specific criteria. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has specific regulations for the control of this type of research and reviews investigational proposals for new drugs containing radioactive materials. NRC published proposed regulations for, among other things, research involving human subjects on June 17, 1993. The proposed rule would require, at a minimum, that licensees obtain informed consent from human subjects and obtain prior review and approval of the research activities by an "Institutional Review Board."

It is important to note that before 1975, the AEC authorized use of investigational new drugs containing byproduct material. In 1963, FDA adopted regulations requiring FDA submittals for all proposals for use of investigational drugs. FDA granted an exemption from this regulation for radioactive drugs approved for use by the AEC. In 1975, FDA began to exercise its regulatory authority in this area. NRC's regulations were changed to provide that any licensee may use any investigational new drug for which FDA has accepted a "Notice of Claimed Investigational Exemption for a New Drug."

- B. **Licensing Guidance.** NRC's medical use licensees currently participate in radiopharmaceutical development studies, development of medical devices, and other forms of medical research designed to advance medical treatment of patients. NRC staff also grants the authorization to

perform other types of human research to some medical licensees. The staff estimates 100 to 200 of the NRC's largest medical institutions are participating in human research. Since there are more Agreement State than NRC licensees, the staff expects more Agreement State licensees may be participating in this type of research. This research may be performed to obtain information about metabolism, biodistribution of compounds, monitor patient treatments, or develop screening studies. The licensing criteria for issuing this authorization includes a commitment that the licensee has and uses an Institutional Review Board, or other appropriate review committees to approve the studies based on ethical considerations, scientific merit, and radiation safety considerations. The staff has not developed independent guidelines for these review committees, but requires confirmation that the committees, as constituted, have been approved by FDA. The staff intends to revise future inspection instructions to require inspectors to review licensees' implementation and use of review committees and the committees' approval procedures for human-use research.

- C. **Follow-up of Human Research Subjects.** The staff is unaware of any formal government medical follow-up of human research subjects before the current government-wide review. However, NRC's procedures for following up of significant occupational exposures or medical misadministrations is to refer the involved subject to DOE's Office of Epidemiology and Health Surveillance, which sponsors a voluntary life-time morbidity study of personnel involved in radiation incidents. This study includes the gathering of clinical and epidemiological data at an early stage following a significant exposure to radiation, and continues throughout the lifetime of the individual involved. The purpose of this study is to compile the best human radiobiological data available for improving immediate medical care, to develop the best prophylactic and anticipatory care for possible late effects, and to upgrade the bases for radiation risk estimates.

Participation in the follow-up program is totally voluntary, and individuals may stop their participation at any time. The medical information obtained during participation is covered by legal constraints, to protect the identity and privacy of living participants. Any expenses involved in providing medical records to the follow-up program are borne by the program and not the individual.

Future Activities

- A. **File Review.** Based on the current review, the staff believes only a few of the active files will have backup information on pre-1975 human research studies. The reviewed active files contained only limited consent information and did not include specific names of research subjects. The staff believes the retired and archived files may contain the licensees' specific requests and clarifications. The archived information should be more informative and may name some specific research subjects. A more extensive review including archived files would be very resource-intensive and would require use of contractor

assistance. Any major information collection effort by the staff will require significant diversion of NRC's program resources.

The staff does not intend to make a broad effort to retrieve all the archived files. The staff will retrieve the retired licenses and archived files for 4 licensees and have a contractor review their contents. MIT, Harvard University, Massachusetts General Hospital, and the University of Cincinnati were selected for this indepth review. They were selected because they had active human research programs before 1975, the media identified them as participating in research of interest to the "Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments," and the information in their files is probably similar to that in other archived files.

The staff, or a contractor, will retrieve and review other AEC-NRC files in cooperation with the ongoing efforts described in paragraph B or in response to specific requests by other government agencies or members of the public.

- B. **Response to Government Requests.** The staff will continue discussions with representatives of various government agencies (e.g., DOE, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of the Navy, and the Department of the Air Force) needing information NRC or the Agreement States possess, to support the President's Task Force. The staff contacted Glenn S. Podonsky, the DOE point of contact, and prepared the enclosed letter to offer NRC assistance in DOE's review of old AEC records currently maintained by NRC or the Agreement States and to identify the NRC point of contact for NRC-DOE coordination (Enclosure 6).

We will provide DOE with new information on the Walter E. Fernald School for the Retarded or other research studies, as it is requested or becomes available. Future responses will be made, as needed, for those specific requests from other government agencies for information contained in active or retired AEC-NRC files. We will also continue to work with the Agreement States to meet specific needs for information from Agreement State program files.

- C. **Release of Information to the Public.** The Office of Public Affairs has prepared a press release (Enclosure 7) to apprise the public of NRC activities.

The staff plans to place in the Public Document Room (PDR): (1) this staff memorandum to the Commission; (2) the regional memoranda responding to the Hugh L. Thompson, Jr., memorandum to the Regional Administrators dated January 7, 1994; and (3) the Agreement State letters responding to the Office of State Programs letter (in Enclosure 4, dated January 10, 1994, from Richard L. Bangart) requesting review of the available state licensing files for human-use research.

Interested members of the public can request review of license files, identified by the regional memorandums, in the normal manner, i.e., at the PDR or regional offices.

**Original signed by
James M. Taylor**

James M. Taylor
Executive Director
for Operations

Enclosures:

1. Executive Order dtd 1/18/94
2. Info Sources from AEC Licensees
Involved in Human Research
3. Memo dtd 1/7/94, from H. L.
Thompson, Jr. to Rgns
4. Summary of NRC Active Files
Survey
5. Status of Agreement State Info
RE Authorization for Human Use
6. Staff ltr to DOE
7. Draft Press Release

cc: SECY
OCA
OGC
OPA

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 18, 1994

EXECUTIVE ORDER

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RADIATION EXPERIMENTS

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Establishment. (a) There shall be established an Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments (the "Advisory Committee" or "Committee"). The Advisory Committee shall be composed of not more than 15 members to be appointed or designated by the President. The Advisory Committee shall comply with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

(b) The President shall designate a Chairperson from among the members of the Advisory Committee.

Sec. 2. Functions. (a) There has been established a Human Radiation Interagency Working Group, the members of which include the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Attorney General, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Director of Central Intelligence, and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. As set forth in paragraph (b) of this section, the Advisory Committee shall provide to the Human Radiation Interagency Working Group advice and recommendations on the ethical and scientific standards applicable to human radiation experiments carried out or sponsored by the United States Government. As used herein, "human radiation experiments" means:

- (1) experiments on individuals involving intentional exposure to ionizing radiation. This category does not include common and routine clinical practices, such as established diagnosis and treatment methods, involving incidental exposures to ionizing radiation;
- (2) experiments involving intentional environmental releases of radiation that (A) were designed to test human health effects of ionizing radiation; or (B) were designed to test the extent of human exposure to ionizing radiation.

Consistent with the provisions set forth in paragraph (b) of this section, the Advisory Committee shall also provide advice, information, and recommendations on the following experiments:

more

(OVER)
ENCLOSURE 1

(1) the experiment into the atmospheric diffusion of radioactive gases and test of detectability, commonly referred to as "the Green Run test," by the former Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and the Air Force in December 1949 at the Hanford Reservation in Richland, Washington;

(2) two radiation warfare field experiments conducted at the AEC's Oak Ridge office in 1948 involving gamma radiation released from non-bomb point sources at or near ground level;

(3) six tests conducted during 1949-1952 of radiation warfare ballistic dispersal devices containing radioactive agents at the U.S. Army's Dugway, Utah, site;

(4) four atmospheric radiation-tracking tests in 1950 at Los Alamos, New Mexico; and

(5) any other similar experiment that may later be identified by the Human Radiation Interagency Working Group.

The Advisory Committee shall review experiments conducted from 1940 to May 30, 1974. Human radiation experiments undertaken after May 30, 1974, the date of issuance of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare ("DHEW") Regulations for the Protection of Human Subjects (45 C.F.R. 46), may be sampled to determine whether further inquiry into experiments is warranted. Further inquiry into experiments conducted after May 30, 1974, may be pursued if the Advisory Committee determines, with the concurrence of the Human Radiation Interagency Working Group, that such inquiry is warranted.

(b) (1) The Advisory Committee shall determine the ethical and scientific standards and criteria by which it shall evaluate human radiation experiments, as set forth in paragraph (a) of this section. The Advisory Committee shall consider whether (A) there was a clear medical or scientific purpose for the experiments; (B) appropriate medical follow-up was conducted; and (C) the experiments' design and administration adequately met the ethical and scientific standards, including standards of informed consent, that prevailed at the time of the experiments and that exist today.

(2) The Advisory Committee shall evaluate the extent to which human radiation experiments were consistent with applicable ethical and scientific standards as determined by the Committee pursuant to paragraph (b) (1) of this section. If deemed necessary for such an assessment, the Committee may carry out a detailed review of experiments and associated records to the extent permitted by law.

(3) If required to protect the health of individuals who were subjects of a human radiation experiment, or their descendants, the Advisory Committee may recommend to the Human Radiation Interagency Working Group that an agency notify particular subjects of an experiment, or their descendants, of any potential health risk or the need for medical follow-up.

(4) The Advisory Committee may recommend further policies, as needed, to ensure compliance with recommended ethical and scientific standards for human radiation experiments.

(5) The Advisory Committee may carry out such additional functions as the Human Radiation Interagency Working Group may from time to time request.

Sec. 3. Administration. (a) The heads of executive departments and agencies shall, to the extent permitted by law, provide the Advisory Committee with such information as it may require for purposes of carrying out its functions.

(b) Members of the Advisory Committee shall be compensated in accordance with Federal law. Committee members may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, to the extent permitted by law for persons serving intermittently in the government service (5 U.S.C. 5701-5707).

(c) To the extent permitted by law, and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Department of Energy shall provide the Advisory Committee with such funds as may be necessary for the performance of its functions.

Sec. 4. General Provisions. (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other Executive order, the functions of the President under the Federal Advisory Committee Act that are applicable to the Advisory Committee, except that of reporting annually to the Congress, shall be performed by the Human Radiation Interagency Working Group, in accordance with the guidelines and procedures established by the Administrator of General Services.

(b) The Advisory Committee shall terminate 30 days after submitting its final report to the Human Radiation Interagency Working Group.

(c) This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the executive branch and it is not intended to create any right, benefit, trust, or responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any person.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

THE WHITE HOUSE,
January 15, 1994.

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**INFORMATION SOURCES FOR THE U.S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
LICENSEES INVOLVED IN HUMAN RESEARCH**

1. BACKGROUND

In the early days of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), facilities were not licensed. Therefore, the list of the institutions associated with the national laboratories provides the earliest identification of institutions with research reactors or using AEC regulated materials. The list of "current" unclassified AEC contracts for medical, chemical and physical science research provides the first public information of the types of research being funded by the AEC. Up until 1955-56, supplies of reactor-produced radionuclides were limited, and the AEC "allocated" specific radionuclides to individual researchers in research facilities. Many early research facilities had working relationships with research-oriented medical institutions. When the supplies were considered adequate, AEC stopped issuing allocation documents and began to issue licenses. The earliest Agreement State program originated in 1960. Before this time, all the available records are AEC records. The active licensing files, which may have contained early AEC "allocation" and licensing documents, were transferred to the States as they became Agreement States. The AEC and appropriate Agreement States would have the license files authorizing human use from 1960 to 1975. As licenses were retired and backup information was superseded, these records were archived by the AEC, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the Agreement States.

2. HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS

Reports. Two lists found in the "Semiannual Reports of the AEC" identify early AEC licensees with possible involvement in human research studies. The first lists AEC research centers and institutions associated with the national laboratories from 1947 on. The second provides the names and a brief description of the "current" AEC unclassified research contracts for biological, medical, and physical studies for the years 1949, 1951, 1952, 1956, and 1959. These lists include facilities located in the Agreement States.

License Card File. The "License Card File" in the Document Control Center of One White Flint North contains AEC license issuing data from 1955-56 when the first AEC materials licenses were issued. Before that time, the AEC "allocated" byproduct material, because of its scarcity, to specific individuals and institutions. This card file identifies AEC-NRC licensees by institution identification codes and lists all licenses issued to each code. The individual institution code cards contain a sequential listing of all licenses issued to that institution by license number, and includes the date of each initial new license request, the name of the authorized users, and the isotopes listed on the license.

The card file provides a means of identifying expired and superseded licenses. This information is not found in the regions, because the expired licenses and early licensing information have been archived. Some of the former AEC licensees are now located in Agreement States. Neither the information from the license cards nor the location of the archived files for most of the pre-1965 backup files is available in any automated computer system and must be searched manually.

Archived NRC License Files. The Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) has archived license files that are stored in the Washington, DC area and Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The regions have additional archived records in storage. NMSS archived records include licenses and older backup documents that were retired when the "active" license files were sent to: the States, when they became Agreement States; the regions, when the licensing activities were regionalized; and the Navy and Air Force, when they became "Master Material Licensees."

When radionuclides were "allocated" by the AEC, the "allocation documents" contained information on the radionuclide, the amount allocated to each researcher, and a brief description of the specific research project. These "allocation documents" were superseded by AEC licenses in 1956-57 when radionuclide supplies became adequate. Mr. Richard E. Cunningham believes that some of these allocation documents are in the institution files that became the early AEC license files. It was not unusual for large research programs, with AEC licenses in 1956-57, to receive 19 to 20 separate new licenses a year, until the 1960's and 70's, when these licensing activities were consolidated into a broad research and development license. These files should also include voting sheets used by the Advisory Committee on Medical Uses of Isotopes in deciding whether to recommend that AEC authorize the licensees' human research or uncommon practice requests. Most of these early licenses, which seem to have been issued for each distinct research project, were retired prior to the assumption of licensing activities by Agreement States, NRC regions, and Master Material Licensees.

Agreement States Archived Files. The Agreement States may have retired or archived documents from retired and active licensing files that cover the pre-1975 timeframe. States that became Agreement States after the mid 70's probably do not have licensing or "allocation" documents before the mid 60's.

3. CURRENT DOCUMENTS

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) list of DOE Contract Recipients. Per NRC request, DOE provided a list of DOE human research contract recipients, as an identification source for NRC licensees. DOE provided 21 pages entitled, "Current Human Subjects Research Projects - Work for Others by Respective Laboratory", 24 pages entitled "Current Human Subjects Research Projects by Respective Laboratory", and one page entitled "Current Human Subjects Research Projects Addendum." Agreement State facilities are also listed in these documents. The DOE contract lists were compared to the historical lists of AEC contracts, but no new information was found.

Active NRC Regional License files. The regions used broad guidance, provided in the January 7, 1994, memorandum to the Regions from Mr. Hugh L. Thompson, Jr., to identify active licensees that may have participated in human research with radioactive material or radiation before 1975. This guidance specifically excluded human use research involving the development of radiopharmaceuticals (i.e., to exclude examples of participation by patients or healthy individuals in trials for the development of drugs containing radioactive materials). Staff wanted to ensure the identification of other types of research (e.g., nutritional, scientific, military) studies of interest to the public and the media. The regions identified a sample of 80 licensees that met the identification criteria and reviewed the license files. Although the active license files included copies of a number of AEC license amendments and renewals, for the most part, they did not include the pre-1975 licensee requests, AEC request for clarification, licensee responses, and the licensee's retired licenses. These documents were archived.

Active Agreement State License Files. The Agreement States were also asked to identify and review license documents for licensees meeting the guidance criteria in the January 7, 1994, memorandum from Mr. Thompson. The Agreement States were asked to provide responses by January 25, 1994.

4. PERSONAL RECOLLECTION

Additional licensees were identified by present and past NRC employees, based on memories of inspection and licensing as well as memories of work experience outside NRC. Information on specific human research studies was recalled, but the regions lacked licensing documents to confirm all the information. Some of the licensees identified by this manner are located in the Agreement States.

Region III staff identified four licensees that may have conducted some human medical research activities. The first three were Proctor and Gamble, UpJohn Corporation, and Borgess Medical Center Hospital. The staff had no specifics pertaining to these licensees; they were not authorized to perform medical research; and there were no documents, in the file, that would indicate that medical research was conducted. The fourth was the University of Cincinnati (Dr. Eugene Saenger's research activities). The staff believes Dr. Saenger was involved with human research studies in the 1950's. Although the University of Cincinnati file was reviewed, there was no indication of Dr. Saenger's association with the one research study found or any other research. References to Dr. Saenger's research are probably in the archived files.

In Region V, three former NRC radiation specialists recalled specific examples of studies involving human research. One recalled first-hand examples of human research other than New Drug Applications. His recollections of three instances occurring at the Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory, while he was employed by the AEC licensee, are included in the region's review. The second recalled that he had participated in an AEC inspection assignment in Philadelphia, during which testing on prisoners was discussed. He was not sure if the testing was ever actually conducted. The region passed that information on to Region I, for follow-up. The third believed that the Universities of

California at Los Angeles and San Francisco; the University of Oregon at Portland; and the U.S. Naval Hospital, at San Diego, were authorized to conduct human research before the U.S. Food and Drug Administration oversight committees were in place. The region did not have those files.

Two Headquarters employees recalled separate types of human-use studies. The first identified thermal neutron-boron capture treatments at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Brookhaven National Laboratory. Staff is reviewing the MIT records. The second remembered a proposal to perform studies using prisoners at a prison in Walla Walla, Washington.



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545-0001

January 7, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR: Those on Attached List

FROM: Hugh L. Thompson, Jr.
Deputy Executive Director for Nuclear
Materials Safety, Safeguards and
Operations Support, EDO

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF LICENSE FILES FOR RECORDS RELATED TO RESEARCH
INVOLVING HUMAN SUBJECTS

This memorandum is to request each Region to conduct a review of available license files for certain licensees likely to have conducted medical or scientific radiation effects research on humans prior to the dissolution of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) in 1975. The purpose of this review is to identify those files containing information on experiments in which humans were deliberately exposed to radiation for purposes other than radiopharmaceutical development. For example, experiments such as studies where volunteers were used to clean up deliberately contaminated sites or studies performed to determine the potential harmful and beneficial effects of radiation exposure to humans should be reviewed.

The regional staff should select the specific licensees meeting the following criteria and review the license files in their entirety, starting with the earliest available records:

1. Military (Department of Defense (DOD)) research facilities and affiliates
2. Military hospitals and medical centers
3. Broad scope facilities for licenses issued before 1975 to include:
 - a) Land grant universities and colleges
 - b) Department of Veterans Administration hospitals
 - c) Large state and private medical research and teaching facilities.

Initially, the review should be targeted at research facilities that are associated with a long history of involvement in these types of experiments. It may also be beneficial to talk to long-time NRC staff members who may recall specific licensees who conducted human radiation biology experiments or other experiments on humans. For this initial review, you should try to review all of the most likely candidates but no fewer than five licenses.

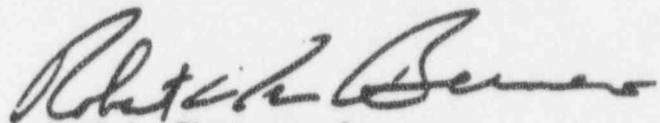
The following information should be submitted to the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) for each file reviewed: license number, docket number, institutional name, and whether there was evidence of radiation

studies involving humans. If no evidence of human research is identified, that fact should be reported. If evidence of human research is identified, provide a brief description of the research that includes: 1) dates of the studies; 2) types and purpose of research studies; 3) whether identification of individual research subjects is available; 4) range of activities or doses reported; and 5) sponsor of research (e.g., DOD, AEC, etc.). NMSS will share the information with the current Presidential Task Force via the Department of Energy (DOE) to assure a uniform federal response to inquiries. Similarly, if you otherwise obtain information regarding individual subjects of radiation experiments, that knowledge will be shared with DOE. The information will be reviewed to ensure that it can be made available pursuant to applicable Federal laws regarding disclosure of such information.

Although, at this time, the review is limited to available files, if there is evidence that information may be available in archived files, the region should make note of that for possible future use. Due to the heightened public awareness of many radiation studies, the requested information should be forwarded to this Office by noon January 14, 1994.

In addition, a summary, entitled "Background Information on Human Research involving Radioactive Materials," is enclosed. This summary should be read by your staff and referred to when responding to inquiries from the regulated community and members of the public.

The contact for this project is John E. Glenn of this staff. Any questions concerning this review should be directed to him at (301) 504-3418.



Hugh L. Thompson, Jr.
Deputy Executive Director for Nuclear
Materials Safety, Safeguards and
Operations Support, EDO

Enclosure: As stated

Background Information on Human Research Involving Radioactive Materials

The NRC does not conduct or directly fund research on human beings. NRC issues licenses to authorize medical research by its licensees based on an applicant's representations that it performs research in accordance with regulations of the Food and Drug Administration. Other types of human research administrations of radiation or radioactive material may be authorized on an NRC license if the applicant demonstrates that the appropriate FDA approved committees have been established, such as a Radioactive Drug Research Committee or Institutional Review Board or Committee. The NRC currently does not have separate regulations or review procedures but depends upon FDA or FDA approved committees to review research protocols in accordance with FDA regulations on such matters as conflict-of-interest or informed consent. The NRC does not inspect its licensees for compliance with FDA regulations. If NRC becomes aware of information or allegations about violations of FDA requirements, it will share these findings with FDA as part of a Memorandum of Understanding. A Proposed Rule was published on June 17, 1993, which would require that human research be conducted only in accordance with the Uniform Federal Policy on Research in Humans, and any proposed research not in compliance with the Federal Policy must receive prior approval by NRC.

The Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) was established by the Atomic Energy Act of 1946 to develop programs for the production and distribution of fissionable materials, development of nuclear reactors primarily aimed at the production of power, and safe industrial use of nuclear materials. AEC operated several research laboratories to advance the field of nuclear science by providing large scale qualified staff and expensive equipment which private industry could not financially afford. At the direction of AEC, some laboratories conducted research studies to determine the potential harmful and beneficial effects of radiation exposure to humans. Most of this AEC work was done by AEC contractors or subcontractors on an unlicensed basis. In an effort to promote the safe use of radiopharmaceuticals for patient diagnosis and therapy at hospitals and other medical facilities, AEC established investigational radioactive drug approval procedures for new drugs or uses, including drug safety and efficacy. With the dissolution of AEC in 1975, licensed AEC activities were transferred to the newly established NRC while AEC-sponsored research activities were transferred to an organization later incorporated into the U.S. Department of Energy. Also in 1975, FDA revoked a 1963 exemption for radioactive drugs from FDA's investigational drug regulations. As a result, NRC took over the licensing of, possession and use of radioactive materials formerly performed by the AEC but not the safety and efficacy review of new radioactive drugs nor the AEC contractor oversight. Thus NRC became the regulator and custodian of AEC issued licenses.

Some of these license files may contain information regarding individuals who were the subjects of research investigations or experiments using licensed radioactive materials or radiation from these materials. NRC's regional offices have been asked to review those files which they believe are most likely to contain information about individual human subjects (large teaching hospitals or research labs). If NRC identifies, or otherwise learns of information regarding individual subjects of radiation experiments, it will share that information with the current Presidential Task Force via the Department of Energy to assure a uniform federal response to inquiries. Information will be made available in accordance with applicable federal laws regarding disclosure of such information.

ENCLOSURE

MEMORANDUM FOR: Those on Attached List

Dated:

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF LICENSE FILES FOR RECORDS RELATED TO RESEARCH
INVOLVING HUMAN SUBJECTS

Thomas T. Martin,
Regional Administrator, Region I

Stewart D. Ebner
Regional Administrator, Region II

John B. Martin
Regional Administrator, Region III

L. J. Callan
Regional Administrator, Region IV

Kenneth E. Perkins
Acting Regional Administrator, Region V

SUMMARY OF NRC ACTIVE FILES SURVEY

TYPE OF LICENSE REVIEWED	TOTAL REVIEWED	HUMAN RESEARCH INFORMATION IN FILES		METABOLIC STUDIES ¹	DRUG RELATED STUDIES ²	THERAPY STUDIES ³	OTHER	INSTITUTIONALIZED SUBJECTS
		YES	NO*					
UNIVERSITY	13	5	8	4**	1	3	S, U	H, ?H, P
VA HOSPITAL	27	17	10	>65	>10	1	17I, 6U	
MILITARY HOSPITAL	5	3	2	35	3		2I	
UNIV HOSPITAL	13	6	7	10	1	1	2I, 3U	H, P
RESEARCH HOSPITAL ⁴	7	7		18	4	1	U	H, 3P, 0
HOSPITAL	8	2	6				2I, 2S, U	
GOVERNMENT	7	6	1	23	1		2I, 2S, 2M	
TOTALS	80	46	34	>155	>20	6	25I, 5S, 12U, 2M	3H, ?H, 5P, 0

KEY

- 1 - TRACER QUANTITIES OF BYPRODUCT MATERIAL IN NORMAL BODY CONSTITUENTS (E.G., SALTS, AMINO ACIDS, SUGARS, FATS) TO MONITOR NORMAL OR STRESSED HUMAN METABOLISM
- 2 - CAN BE EITHER OF TWO TYPES: (A) SMALL QUANTITIES OF BYPRODUCT MATERIAL LABELED TO CONVENTIONAL DRUGS TO MONITOR THE DRUG'S METABOLISM; (B) RADIOPHARMACEUTICALS TO MONITOR CONVENTIONAL DRUG ACTION AND MEDICAL PROCEDURES
- 3 - SEALED OR UNSEALED SOURCES OF BYPRODUCT MATERIAL IN EXPERIMENTAL TREATMENT OF MEDICAL CONDITIONS
- 4 - INCLUDES THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

- * - SOME ACTIVE FILES HAD NO PRE-1975 INFORMATION
- ** - INDICATES NUMBER STUDIES IDENTIFIED IN RECORDS
- I - INJECTED/INGESTED IMAGING RESEARCH
[2I - 2 IMAGING STUDIES COULD BE IDENTIFIED]
- S - SEALED SOURCE IMAGING RESEARCH
- U - UNKNOWN RESEARCH
- M - MILITARY RESEARCH INVOLVING CONTAMINATION
- P - PRISONERS
- H - MENTAL PATIENTS
- ?H - MENTAL PATIENTS MAY NOT BE INSTITUTIONALIZED
- O - RESIDENTS OF AN OLD SOLDIERS' HOME

STATUS OF AGREEMENT STATE INFORMATION
REGARDING AUTHORIZATION FOR HUMAN USE

On January 10, 1994, the 29 Agreement States (A/S) were requested by NRC's Office of State Programs to review their available licensee files for information relative to any authorization for human use research (SP-94-011). As of February 1, 1994, six A/S determined, through a review of their files and interviews with present and former employees, that some evidence exists to indicate potential authorization of human use research. The remaining 23 A/S indicated they found no evidence of any authorization for human use research other than for radiopharmaceutical development. The NRC intends to assist in obtaining further information from the A/S, if requested by the Presidential Task Force. Below is a brief synopsis of each State's response to SP-94-11.

Arkansas Department of Health: Letter from Greta Dicus, Director, Division of Radiation Control and Emergency Management, dated January 18, 1994: University of Arkansas at Fayetteville's license file indicates that none of the research projects involved human exposures for experimental purposes. The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences' license file indicates that research projects did involve human exposures but all of these projects appear to be associated with radiopharmaceutical research and were not bioeffects studies.

California Department of Health Services: Letter from Edgar Bailey, Chief, Radiologic Health Branch, dated January 18, 1994: California has identified 9 radioactive materials licensees that might have conducted experiments in which humans were deliberately exposed to radiation for purposes other than radiopharmaceutical development prior to 1975. Since all licensees identified are broad scope licensees and have authority to issue their own use permits for research projects, documentation was not required to be submitted to the California regulatory program for review. The documentation was, however, required to be maintained by the licensee and made available for inspection.

Mr. Bailey has requested that NRC provide him with any similar information that the NRC has with regard to the State of California.

Colorado Department of Health: Letter from Robert Quillin, Director, Radiation Control Division, dated January 13, 1994: Colorado has conducted some interviews with Dr. Conrad Riley who was Chair of the very first "Human Research Committee," beginning in the late 1960's at what was then the University of Colorado Medical Center and Dr. Marvin Daves, who is still with the Colorado's Department of Radiology, and was the Chairman of the Department of Radiology beginning in 1961, with continuing major involvement in the "Institutional Radiation Committee." Documents from the 1960's indicate authorizations to use byproduct materials at several off-campus locations, including the State Home and Training School in Wheatridge, the Colorado State Penitentiary, and Regis College. Based on the nature of these locations of use, one might logically surmise that human study populations at those institutions would have been involved.

The Committee files go back to 1969, with a complete summary log of authorized protocols beginning in 1970 (date, investigator's name, radionuclide, amount

authorized, designation of human vs. non-human use), although Colorado is not sure that they can locate the rest of the related applications. Any detailed information on the early studies would probably require arduous efforts at locating and interviewing faculty members from those times, in order to determine the names of the responsible investigators and considerable research work in followup, if any records can be located at all. A more expeditious way to locate relevant records might be to locate the letters from the University of Colorado Medical Center to the AEC to request license amendments to License No. 5-902-5, if they are in the AEC files, wherever those files are located. Colorado does not possess copies of those letters.

A January 14, 1994 letter to Bob Quillin from Janet A. Johnson, Colorado State University (CSU) indicates that interest in radiation bioeffects and use of tracers in biological research at CSU dates back to 1959. Two incidents have been identified. One involved administration of 1.0 microcurie of K-42 to each of approximately six faculty members and, possibly, a graduate student, sometime between 1965 and 1967 for the purpose of calibrating the "Whole Body Counter." This device is used to measure radioactivity in humans and animals. The CSU "Whole Body Counter" was originally used for fallout and body composition studies. The second involved exposure of several individuals to Rn-222 to determine distribution of radon daughters in the body in conjunction with research on radon daughter exposure to uranium miners. Records have been requested in both cases and should be available within the next few weeks. Each of these cases involved knowledgeable individuals performing functions with which they were familiar on the basis of their occupation and professional training and the doses were within the occupational radiation dose limits in effect at that time.

Two other incidents have been reported on an anecdotal basis, but no evidence has been found to verify them. At one time, one or more animals were injected with radioactively labeled steroids. The beef from the animals apparently was ingested by volunteers and the radioactivity in the volunteers measured in the "Whole Body Counter." One other individual recalled getting permission of the Colorado Department of Health to consume meat from an animal used previously in research simply so the meat would not go to waste. An incident involving voluntary ingestion of milk containing I-131 for the purpose of calibrating the "Whole Body Counter" has also been identified, although the individual who has been responsible for the "Whole Body Counter" since the time of its construction does not recall either incident. At this time, no written record has been located regarding these anecdotal incidents.

Note that U.S. Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell's letter dated January 14, 1994 to Bob Quillin expresses support for President Clinton's and NRC's efforts to commence a full and comprehensive review of the nation's nuclear medicine activities and records. He also asks Mr. Quillin to provide his office with the results of records searches in Colorado as soon as possible.

Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services: Letter from William Passetti, Radioactive Materials Section, dated January 18, 1994 states that three broad scope medical and five broad scope academic license files were reviewed as requested. There was no evidence to indicate experiments in which

humans were deliberately exposed to radiation for purposes other than radiopharmaceutical development.

Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety: Letter from Steven Collins, Chief, Division of Radioactive Materials, dated January 21, 1994: As a preliminary response, the Department is currently limiting its search to facilities in the Chicago area, and has determined that 31 facilities originally licensed by the AEC as broad scope medical, academic or research facilities should be reviewed. The Department is actively reviewing the license files for these facilities to determine if there was any human research conducted.

Nebraska Department of Health: Harold Borchart, Director, Division of Radiological Health indicated via a January 27, 1994 telephone conversation with the Office of State Programs that the State had no information in their files but had received an inquiry from an individual regarding a possible incident at the University of Nebraska Medical Center involving a child. Mr. Borchart asked NRC to share any information we may have available regarding this incident and any other pertinent information relating to human research studies in the State of Nebraska prior to their becoming an Agreement State.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation: Letter from Norman Nosenchuck, Director, Division of Hazardous Substances Regulation, dated January 18, 1994 indicates there are no such files in their Bureau of Radiation.

New York State Department of Health: Letter from Christopher Parker, Associate Radiological Health Specialist, dated January 26, 1994 encloses a list of research projects conducted by some New York State Department of Health radioactive materials licensees involving the use of radioactive materials in humans for purposes other than radiopharmaceutical development. Seven licenses were reviewed for documentation of research activities.

Mr. Parker notes that the list is not a comprehensive summary of human-use research. Most broad medical licensees are conducting human-use research that is not necessarily reflected in the files. Also, the available files only go back to the mid-1980's. Older files in storage have not been reviewed. None of the research projects described involve efforts to determine radiotoxicity or other effects of radiation, but rather utilize radioactive materials in the study of a certain process unrelated to radiation. All of the research activities involved patient or volunteer consent.

New York State Labor Department: Clayton Bradt, Radiological Health Unit, reported February 1, 1994 that the New York State Labor Department has no such records.

New York City Health Department: Robert Kulikowski, Director, Bureau of Radiological Health reported January 31, 1994 that he has not yet conducted a physical search of the office files; however, he does not recall any such records within the New York City Health Department files. He will notify NRC of the results of his search upon completion.

Nevada Department of Human Resources: Letter from Stanley Marshall, Supervisor, Radiological Health Section, dated January 24, 1994 states that a review of the files and interviews with program staff employed by the Nevada Health Division during the 1970's indicate that no Nevada licensees were authorized nor was any suspected medical or scientific radiation effects research on humans in Nevada documented during Division inspections.

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation: Letter from Johnny Graves, Licensing, Registration Policy Manger, dated January 14, 1994 transmits the following information: The University of Tennessee, Memphis - A letter dated September 26, 1963 from Cecil Buchanan of the AEC to John Q. Adams concerning Iodine-131 research on humans; Vanderbilt University, Nashville - a letter dated January 31, 1958 from George Meneely to Cecil Buchanan discussing human use dose and committee interactions and a letter dated July 25, 1962 to John E. Bowyer of the AEC from John C. Burch discussing the undertaking of "an experimental investigation of the elimination of radon gas from the lungs."

Washington Department of Health: Letter from Terry Frazier, Supervisor, Radioactive Materials Section, dated January 25, 1994 provides information on three licensees involved in Pm-143 distribution in volunteers, thymidine in testes of convicts and neutron irradiation of gonads of convicts.

The following Agreement States telephoned to say they found no evidence upon a review of their files and interviews with present and former employees of any authorization for human use other than radiopharmaceutical development:

Alabama State Department of Public Health: Kirk Whatley, Director, January 26, 1994.

Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency: William Wright, Program Manager, January 26, 1994.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources: Tom Hill, Manager, Radioactive Materials Program, January 18, 1994.

Iowa Department of Public Health: Dan McGhee, Radioactive Materials, January 26, 1994.

Kansas Department of Health and Environment: Gerald Allen, Chief, X-ray and RAM Control Section, January 31, 1994.

Kentucky Cabinet for Human Resources: Vicki Jeffs, Supervisor, Radioactive Materials Section, January 27, 1994.

Louisiana Office of Air Quality and Radiation Protection: Hall Bohlinger, Administrator, Radiation Protection Division, January 26, 1994.

Maine Radiologic Health Program: Jay Hyland, Radioactive Materials Licensing, January 27, 1994.

Maryland Department of the Environment: Charles Flynn, Radioactive Material Licensing, January 24, 1994.

Mississippi State Department of Health: Bob Goff, Radioactive Materials Branch, January 26, 1994.

New Hampshire Radiological Health Bureau: Dennis O'Dowd, Supervisor, Radioactive Materials Section, January 24, 1994.

New Mexico Department of the Environment: Benito Garcia, Chief, Bureau of Hazardous and Radioactive Materials, January 31, 1994.

North Carolina Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources: Mel Fry, Deputy Director, Division of Radiation Protection, January 26, 1994.

North Dakota Department of Health: Kenneth Wrangler, Manager, Radiation Control Program, January 26, 1994.

Oregon Department of Human Resources: Ray Paris, Manager, Radiation Control Section, January 26, 1994.

Rhode Island Department of Health: Marie Stoeckel, Chief, Division of Occupational and Radiological Health, January 26, 1994.

South Carolina Bureau of Radiological Health: Jim Peterson, Radioactive Health and Environmental Control, January 13, 1994.

Texas Department of Health: Richard Ratliff, Chief, Bureau of Radiation Control, January 26, 1994.

Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC): Letter from Alice Hamilton Rogers, Manager, UIC, Uranium and Hazardous Waste Section, dated January 13, 1994 states that the TNRCC's jurisdiction is limited to the disposal of radioactive substances and uranium recovery processing, both of which allow little scope for such experimentation.

Utah Department of Environmental Quality: Craig Jones, Section Manager, Division of Radiation Control, January 14, 1994 and William Sinclair, Director, Division of Radiation Control, January 26, 1994.

TIME SENSITIVE INFORMATION

JAN 10 1994

ALL AGREEMENT STATES

TRANSMITTAL OF STATE AGREEMENTS PROGRAM INFORMATION (SP-94-011)

Your attention is invited to the attached correspondence which contains:

INCIDENT AND EVENT INFORMATION.....

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT INFORMATION.....

TRAINING COURSE INFORMATION.....

TECHNICAL INFORMATION.....

OTHER INFORMATION.....XX Authorization for Human Use

Supplementary information: The NRC has recently requested its Regional Offices, by memorandum dated January 7, 1994 (enclosed), to conduct a review of available license files, including terminated license files, to obtain information on certain licensees who were likely to have conducted medical or scientific radiation effects research on humans prior to the dissolution of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) in 1975. The purpose of this review is to identify those files containing information on experiments in which humans were deliberately exposed to radiation for purposes other than radiopharmaceutical development. The enclosed memorandum further details the specific criteria to be considered in this review.

We are also requesting at this time that the Agreement States review their files as well to identify and report to the Office of State Programs those files containing information on experiments in which humans were deliberately exposed to radiation for purposes other than radiopharmaceutical development. Initial information would be most useful if provided by ~~January 18, 1994~~ January 18, 1994, with follow-up of final information by January 25, 1994.

If you have further questions regarding this correspondence, please contact the individual named below.

POINT OF CONTACT: Rosetta Virgilio
TELEPHONE: (301) 504-2307
FAX (301) 504-3502

Original Signed By
RICHARD L. BANGART
Richard L. Bangart, Director
Office of State Programs

Enclosure:
As stated



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

Mr. Glenn S. Podonsky
Deputy Assistant for Security Evaluation
U.S. Department of Energy
19901 Germantown Road - C304
Germantown, Maryland 20874

Dear Mr. Podonsky:

The purpose of this letter is to follow-up on the telephone conversation between you and Bill Brach of my staff on January 31, 1994, concerning NRC coordination with the Department of Energy (DOE) on review of Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) files on studies, research and experiments involving human subjects.

During the past several weeks the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Headquarters and regional staffs have been reviewing readily available files to identify information about former AEC licensees that may have conducted research studies using AEC licensed radioactive materials, or the radiation therefrom, on human subjects prior to 1975. The 29 Agreement States were also requested by NRC to review their available licensee files for similar information. This information was sought to enable the NRC to respond to potential requests for information from the Department of Energy, the Presidential Task Force investigating human radiation research or any other Federal agency involved in this effort.

NRC has already provided DOE with copies of the Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory license documents for Camp Parks, California, and Camp Stoneman, California, and available documents on the Walter E. Fernald School and its successor, the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center, which has a license for non-human uses. The NRC is also searching for early AEC documents describing procedures used to approve licensing requests for research on human subjects. These efforts were undertaken at DOE's request.

As discussed in the January 31, 1994, telephone conversation, the NRC would like to establish a formal liaison with your organization to coordinate any future requests for support. The NRC has received a few requests for information from the press and members of the public concerning early licensed human uses of radioactive material. The NRC would like to coordinate with

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Mr. Glenn S. Podonsky

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DOE the release of this information. I believe that it is important that we coordinate our actions and that NRC be responsive and aware of informational needs DOE may have. I have been designated to be the NRC point of contact for future coordination with DOE on this matter. I am also the initial point of contact for the Agreement State Programs. I understand that you are directing the development of the DOE record retrieval and review process and look forward to receiving, for our information, the DOE plan.

If you have any questions, I can be contacted at (301)-504-2659.

Sincerely,

Carl J. Paperiello, Director
Division of Industrial and
Medical Nuclear Safety
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure:
Commission Memo

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NRC ANNOUNCES PROGRESS TO DATE ON REVIEW OF LICENSE FILES
FOR RADIATION EXPERIMENTS ON HUMANS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is reporting on its review to date of available files for certain licensees that may have conducted radiation research on humans.

The agency has reviewed 80 files that contain information on licenses issued by the Atomic Energy Commission before it was dissolved and the NRC was established in 1975. The review was limited to pre-1975 data, which conforms with the President's January 15 Executive Order establishing an Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments and instructing it to review human experiments conducted from 1944 to May 30, 1974.

Forty-six of the 80 files included some evidence of studies using humans in research other than radiopharmaceutical development. The majority of these involved the use of small quantities of radioactive material as tracers in metabolic studies of bodily functions.

Most of the files reviewed by the NRC did not contain the names of human subjects participating in the studies. There were indications that some researchers used institutionalized individuals (prisoners and mental patients) as well as military personnel and Department of Veterans Affairs patients in their studies. Issues concerning informed consent or ethical appropriateness of patient selection were generally not addressed in the files.

Since the review dealt with only readily available files physically located in NRC headquarters and regional offices, complete information was not available. In some cases the files contained no pre-1975 information. Old licenses and backup information, as well as records of terminated licenses, are stored in archives in the Washington, DC, area, Oak Ridge, Tenn., and near the regional offices. Because of these limitations, NRC cannot confirm whether certain AEC licensees were actually conducting human research prior to 1975.

Before the NRC was established in 1975, the AEC reviewed and authorized requests for research on new drugs containing radioactive material. This review was carried out under an exemption from the Food and Drug Administration, which normally regulates research on new drugs. Shortly after the NRC was created, FDA revoked the exemption. NRC regulations governing the use of radioactive materials for research and development prohibit use on humans unless FDA procedures are followed. As such, NRC depends on FDA or FDA-approved committees to review research proposals and protocols for research on new drugs containing radioactive material and other medical research on humans, including studies on metabolism.

Currently NRC's medical licensees use radioactive materials in radiopharmaceutical development studies, development of medical devices and other forms of research designed to advance medical treatment of patients. An estimated 100 to 200 of the largest medical institutions licensed by the NRC conduct human

research. Institutes licensed by Agreement States also may be involved in this type of research.

To conduct the research, licensees must have an FDA Institutional Review Board or other appropriate review committee approve the studies based on ethical considerations, scientific merit and radiation safety considerations. The NRC has not developed independent guidelines for these review committees, but requires confirmation that they have been approved by FDA.

Among the files that NRC reviewed were studies performed by the former Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory (NRDL) at Camp Parks and Camp Stoneman, California. One study involved deliberate skin contamination of the arms of individuals to test decontamination effectiveness. Unlike most files reviewed by the NRC, the NRDL files contained a document listing the names of radiation workers and volunteers who received radiation doses while participating in decontamination exercises.

In response to a Department of Energy (DOE) request, NRC retrieved an AEC license issued in 1966 (expired in 1968) to the Walter E. Fernald School for the Retarded in Waltham, Massachusetts, for a different research project. These records also identified license guidelines for review of the experiments and include reference to obtaining parental-guardian consent. The Fernald School is now part of the Eunice Shriver Center, which has an active NRC license for non-human uses. On January 5 NRC provided documents to DOE on both of these institutes.

The NRC is also coordinating its efforts with the 29

Agreement States, which regulate most uses of nuclear material in their states, other than for nuclear power plants. NRC asked these states on January 10 to review their available licensee files for similar information related to any authorization for human use research.

To date, six Agreement States have determined, through a review of their files and interviews with present and former employees, that some evidence exists to indicate potential authorization of human use. The remaining 23 Agreement States indicate that they found no evidence of any authorization for human use other than for radiopharmaceutical development. The NRC intends to assist in obtaining any further information from the Agreement States, as requested by the Human Radiation Interagency Working Group.

The NRC and Agreement States did not review files for examples of participation by patients or healthy individuals in research trials for the development of drugs containing radioactive materials. Because of time and resource constraints, this type of research was excluded in order to capture the types of nutritional, scientific, military and other human-use research studies believed to be of greater public interest.

The NRC notes that a better picture of the AEC human research studies involving radioactive material could be obtained from a systematic search of the archived files. However, due to the resource-intensive effort needed to review over 30,000 files in multiple locations, the NRC does not plan to retrieve and

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review all archived files. Also, search might only duplicate the DOE's ongoing efforts to locate information on human experiments, since DOE and NRC were both part of the former AEC.

However, in support of the Interagency Working Group, NRC will continue discussions with representatives of the Group's various government agencies (such as DOE, Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Navy, and Department of Air Force) and respond to their requests as needed. As a part of this effort, the NRC will give DOE new information on the Fernald School or other research studies as it is requested or becomes available.

In addition, the NRC plans to retrieve information for four licensees--MIT, Harvard University, Massachusetts General Hospital and the University of Cincinnati--for an in-depth review. These licensees are known to have had active human research programs before 1975.

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