



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I
2100 RENAISSANCE BLVD.
KING OF PRUSSIA, PA 19406-2713

April 15, 2020

John J. Resta, Director
Department of the Army
Army Public Health Center
MCHB-QSR-RPO
Building 5158
8252 Blackhawk Road
Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5403

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, ARMY PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER,
RESOLUTION OF ISSUE FROM RENEWAL, CONTROL NO. 584142

Dear Mr. Resta:

In 2014, the Region I office received a renewal application for License No. SMB-707, then known as the Public Health Command. Submitted with the renewal application was the USAPHC Regulation 385-24, which included the ANSI/HPS N13.12-1999 "Surface and Volume Radioactivity Standards for Clearance (ANSI/HPS N13.12)." A Technical Assistance Request (TAR) was submitted by the region to the NRC program office to determine if the ANSI/HPS N13.12 criteria for release was acceptable to the NRC. When it became clear that the evaluation would take an extended period, you committed to using the NRC release criteria for facilities under NRC jurisdiction, and the renewal was issued. Because the technical staff in Region I also identified that the ANSI/HPS N.13.12 criteria was used in other Army license submissions, we kept the TAR open. We obtained similar commitments from those licensees that the NRC limits would be used where Army activities were under NRC jurisdiction, until such time as a determination was reached regarding use of the ANSI/HPS N13.12 criteria.

The Region I technical staff received a determination on April 8, 2020. The review concluded that the ANSI/HPS N13.12 may not be used for criteria for decontamination of facilities before license termination and for unrestricted release of materials and equipment.

The screening criteria for release of *facilities* (license termination) should not be applied to unrestricted releases of *materials and equipment* prior to license termination. Additional discussion of the relationship between criteria for license termination and criteria for unrestricted release of materials and equipment is provided in NUREG-1757, Vol. 2, Rev. 1, Section G.1.1.

Current NRC guidance on approaches to unrestricted release of materials and equipment with volumetric contamination is provided in NUREG-1757, Vol. 1, Rev. 2, Section 15.11. The existing guidance is that releases of volumetrically contaminated solid material may be approved, pursuant to 10 CFR 20.2002, under an annual dose criterion of a "few mrem," and are reviewed by NRC on a case-by-case basis. Licensees should continue to use the existing guidance contained in NUREG-1757 to obtain specific approvals for disposal of materials, equipment and volumetrically contaminated materials.

It should be noted that the NRC staff has previously reviewed and denied requests from licensees to use ANSI/HPS N13.12 for the release of contaminated materials and equipment from their facility. An example is National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services License Number: 19- 00296-10 (ADAMS Accession No. ML003718829). Based on this denial, Nuclear Fuel Services submitted a withdrawal of a similar license amendment request for the use of ANSI/HPS N13.12 (ADAMS Accession No. ML003737223). NRC's recommendations on the use of this ANSI standard has not changed.

Based on licensing actions and inspections performed of Army facilities over the past several years, we understand that the Army procedures have been revised since 2014, but some procedures still refer to the ANSI/HPS N13.12 criteria. This letter confirms the NRC's position regarding the use of the ANSI/HPS N13.12 criteria for facilities under NRC jurisdiction. No action is required from you at this time. If you have any questions, I can be contacted by telephone at (610) 337-5040 or by email to Elizabeth.ullrich@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

Betsy Ullrich, Senior Health Physicist
Commercial, Industrial, R&D
and Academic Branch
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety
Region I

License No. SMB-707
Docket No. 040-07008
Mail Control No. 584142

cc: Scott Goodison, Radiation Safety Officer
Timothy H. Mikulski, Army Radiation Safety Officer

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, ARMY PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER, RESOLUTION FROM RENEWAL, CONTROL NO. 584142 DATED APRIL 15, 2020

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SUNSI Review Complete: Betsy Ullrich

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