

**From:** [Bose, Satya R.](#)  
**To:** [Elliott, Robin](#)  
**Cc:** [Courtemanche, Steven](#); [Wutoh, Anthony K.](#); [Janda, Donna](#); [Cahill, Christopher](#)  
**Subject:** [External\_Sender] RE: Request for Relief from Regulatory Requirements, Request for Additional Information  
**Date:** Friday, April 17, 2020 1:13:08 PM  
**Attachments:** [Response to NRC inquiry.pdf](#)

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Good Afternoon Ms. Elliott,

Thank you for your kind response to our request for regulatory relief to perform certain activities for the Radiation Safety Program at Howard University and University Hospital. Per your inquiry, please see our response in the attached document.

Sincerely,

Satya Bose

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Satya R. Bose, Ph.D., DABR  
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Radiation Safety Officer  
Chief Medical Physicist  
Interim Director of Medical Physics Program  
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**From:** Elliott, Robin <Robin.Elliott@nrc.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 2:14 PM  
**To:** Bose, Satya R. <satya.bose@Howard.edu>; Wutoh, Anthony K. <awutoh@Howard.edu>  
**Cc:** Courtemanche, Steven <Steven.Courtemanche@nrc.gov>; Janda, Donna <Donna.Janda@nrc.gov>; Cahill, Christopher <Christopher.Cahill@nrc.gov>  
**Subject:** Request for Relief from Regulatory Requirements, Request for Additional Information

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License No.: 08-03075-07

Docket No: 030-01321

Control No: 618599

Licensee Name: Howard University and University Hospital

This refers to your notification dated April 10, 2020, requesting relief from regulatory requirements and license commitments during the Covid-19 pandemic. In order to continue our review of your request, the following additional information is needed:

1. In your request letter, you indicated that Howard University and Howard University Hospital have mandated all non-essential employees to begin remote operations. Please clarify who is determined to be non-essential employees; e.g. radiation safety staff, Nuclear Medicine staff, Radiation Oncology staff, research principle investigators?
2. The Temporary Exemption (TE) if granted, authorizes an exemption from regulations and the commitments made in your license application for a period of 90 days. In general, suspending survey requirements will only be permitted for facilities where licensed material is not being used for the period of the TE. For facilities where licensed activities continue, compensatory measures need to be adopted to authorize exemption from your current requirements.
3. Regarding your specific requests:
  - a. Will shipments of licensed material continue to be received at the hospital loading dock? Will potentially contaminated materials be removed from the campus through the loading dock? If so, what compensatory measures will be in place to address the requirements of 10 CFR 20.1101, 10 CFR 20.1301, 10 CFR 20.1501, 10 CFR 20.1906, and 10 CFR 35.92, etc.
  - b. Will RSO facilities/labs continue to be locations where licensed material is used? If so, what compensatory measures will be in place to address the requirements of 10 CFR 20.1101, 10 CFR 20.1501, 10 CFR 20.1801, etc.
  - c. Will the hospital Nuclear Medicine and Radiation Oncology hot labs continue to be used for licensed activities? If so, what compensatory measures will be in place to address the requirements of 10 CFR 20.1101, and 10 CFR 20.1501, and 10 CFR Part 35, etc.
  - d. Items 4 and 5 of your request for an exemption involve quarterly and semi-annual surveys of Howard University research laboratories. Please confirm whether research activities are on-going during the COVID-19 PHE. If there are no licensed activities in a research laboratory, then the surveys may be suspended for the full period of the TE. If there have been licensed activities leading up to the PHE but all research has been suspended, then surveys may be suspended for the full period of the TE. If licensed activities continue through the PHE, then the licensee must provide compensatory measures to ensure the health and safety of the public.
  - e. Will the Howard University Hospital clinical labs continue to use licensed materials? If so, what compensatory measures will be in place to address the requirements of 10 CFR 20.1101, 10 CFR 20.1301, and 10 CFR 20.1501, license commitments, etc.
  - f. Your letter referenced monthly and quarterly dosimeters for occupationally

exposed individuals. For clarification, no change was requested for monthly dosimeters; however, you requested that quarterly dosimeters be exchanged on an annual basis. Given that the USNRC will be granting a temporary exemption for a 90 day period only, your request for an annual exchange rate cannot be approved. Describe groups assigned quarterly dosimeters. For instance, are these groups traditionally workers receiving less than 10 % of the occupational exposure limits?

In order to facilitate your request, reply via email as soon as possible and copy Steve Courtemanche. We will be unable to respond to your request until your response is received.

Please respond by e-mail to acknowledge that you have received the e-mail request for additional information.

Regards,

*Robin L. Elliott*

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Medical & Licensing Assistance Branch  
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## RESPONSE TO INQUIRY

Licensee Name: Howard University and University Hospital

1. In your request letter, you indicated that Howard University and Howard University Hospital have mandated all non-essential employees to begin remote operations. Please clarify who is determined to be non-essential employees; e.g. radiation safety staff, Nuclear Medicine staff, Radiation Oncology staff, research principle investigators?

Essential workers are:

- ***Radiation Safety office (RSO) staff, Radiology/Nuclear Medicine staff, Radiation Oncology staff, Cardiology staff, hospital environmental services staff to dispose wastes etc.***
  - ***Non-essential workers: Principal Investigators (PI) for research are not considered to be essential.***
2. The Temporary Exemption (TE) if granted, authorizes an exemption from regulations and the commitments made in your license application for a period of 90 days. In general, suspending survey requirements will only be permitted for facilities where licensed material is not being used for the period of the TE. For facilities where licensed activities continue, compensatory measures need to be adopted to authorize exemption from your current requirements.
    - ***During the COVID-19 pandemic period, the PI's are not conducting any research using licensed materials.***
  3. Regarding your specific requests:
    - a. Will shipments of licensed material continue to be received at the hospital loading dock? Will potentially contaminated materials be removed from the campus through the loading dock? If so, what compensatory measures will be in place to address the requirements of 10 CFR 20.1101, 10 CFR 20.1301, 10 CFR 20.1501, 10 CFR 20.1906, and 10 CFR 35.92, etc.
      - ***Nuclear Medicine (NM) will continue to receive licensed materials for diagnostic purposes. During weekdays, the Vendor brings isotopes directly to the hot lab and the (NM) technologists receive it and perform contamination test.***
      - ***If Radiation Oncology receives patients for treatment with licensed materials, the isotopes will then be delivered to the loading dock source receiving vault. RSO will receive the source and perform necessary quality assurance and contamination checks for compliance***

- b. Will RSO facilities/labs continue to be locations where licensed material is used? If so, what compensatory measures will be in place to address the requirements of 10 CFR 20.1101, 10 CFR 20.1501, 10 CFR 20.1801, etc.
- ***No, RSO facilities will not be using any licensed materials.***
- c. Will the hospital Nuclear Medicine and Radiation Oncology hot labs continue to be used for licensed activities? If so, what compensatory measures will be in place to address the requirements of 10 CFR 20.1101, and 10 CFR 20.1501, and 10 CFR Part 35, etc.
- **Yes, as explained, Nuclear Medicine hot labs will receive licensed materials. Daily and weekly radiation survey and contamination checks are done by the Nuclear Medicine Technologists.**
  - **At this time, the Radiation Oncology does not perform any HDR procedures and the department discontinued receiving HDR source. The last source was received on December 04, 2018. If we have any LDR cases during this pandemic period, regulatory requirements will be met.**
- d. Items 4 and 5 of your request for an exemption involve quarterly and semi-annual surveys of Howard University research laboratories. Please confirm whether research activities are on-going during the COVID-19 PHE. If there are no licensed activities in a research laboratory, then the surveys may be suspended for the full period of the TE. If there have been licensed activities leading up to the PHE but all research has been suspended, then surveys may be suspended for the full period of the TE. If licensed activities continue through the PHE, then the licensee must provide compensatory measures to ensure the health and safety of the public.
- **Principal Investigators (PI) will not use licensed materials during this COVID-19 period. And access to these labs are restricted to perform quarterly inspections.**
  - **Howard University research labs do not use licensed materials. And access to these labs are restricted due to closure of the University.**
- e. Will the Howard University Hospital clinical labs continue to use licensed materials? If so, what compensatory measures will be in place to address the requirements of 10 CFR 20.1101, 10 CFR 20.1301, and 10 CFR 20.1501, license commitments, etc.
- ***Please refer to our response given above in section C***
- f. Your letter referenced monthly and quarterly dosimeters for occupationally exposed individuals. For clarification, no change was requested for monthly dosimeters; however, you requested that quarterly dosimeters be exchanged on an annual basis. Given that the USNRC will be granting a temporary exemption for a 90 day period only, your request

for an annual exchange rate cannot be approved. Describe groups assigned quarterly dosimeters. For instance, are these groups traditionally workers receiving less than 10 % of the occupational exposure limits?

- **For employees receiving monthly dosimeters will continue to receive their badge on a monthly basis.**
- **Quarterly personnel dosimeters exchange period was extended for 90 days during this pandemic period (by annual cycles mentioned in my previous letter was a typo). Please note this 90-day extension for quarterly badges will apply only for this pandemic period, which has already been approved by our vendor, Landauer,Inc.**
- **Once the pandemic period is over, the badge distribution will resume normal cycle.**