



Greater Southeast Community Hospital
1310 Southern Avenue, Southeast
Washington, D.C. 20032
(202) 574-6000

David E. Brown
President

August 24, 1995

Ms. Jenny M. Johansen
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region 1
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406-1415

Dear Ms. Johansen:

This letter is a reply to a notice of violation dated July 26, 1995. The following information is submitted for each violation:

- A. Enclosed is a document from our health physicist consultant which discusses the I-131 therapy contained in the trash sent to the Irish Road, Little Plymouth Virginia Landfill on April 20th and 21st 1994. As stated in this document, the contaminated articles were tagged and sampled to reveal that it was less than 31 uCi. Based on the NRC guidelines the CFR20.2001, this is not a reportable event. Since that time the Radiation Safety Officer as well as an outside consulting company have provided valuable information concerning the safe handling and disposition of radioactive material to the staff. No further violations have occurred.
- B. A review of our in-service training program revealed that we have not provided sufficient training for I-131 Therapy Exams. In compliance with section 35.75 our nuclear medicine technologists will be given instruction on how to prepare and decontaminate patients' rooms. Until this training is complete there will be no further I-131 therapy treatments conducted under this license. It is expected that this training will be completed by the end of October 1995.
- C. Before assigning patients to a room, which has been previously occupied by a radiopharmaceutical therapy patient, the room is checked with radiation detection survey equipment and surveyed for evidence of contamination. As a result of the last NRC evaluation, it became apparent that the proper procedures for decontamination following iodine therapy were not followed. To correct this problem, the training of employees will stress the importance of a complete

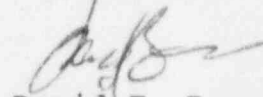
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survey of the room. Areas of potentially high contamination such as the toilet floor, wash basin, and toilet bowl will be given special emphasis in our revised policies and procedures. Training will include proper papering of the room, linen maintenance, waste disposal and other relevant procedures. These actions will be completed by the end of October 1995.

In the future the RSO and the department administrator will personally inspect and ensure that all aspects of iodine therapy exams are in full compliance. Complete compliance of all regulations relating to this subject in 10 CFR 35.315 (a) (7) will be adhered to immediately. Upon resumption of this particular treatment you will be notified in advance so that monitoring may occur at your discretion.

Should you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



David E. Brown,

Enclosure 1



HPSI Corp and Affiliated Companies

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May 3, 1994

Paulette Smith
Department of Radiology
Greater Southeast Community Hospital
1310 Southern Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20032

Dear Ms. Smith:

On April 27, 1994, the undersigned surveyed the trash dumpster located at the Greater Southeast Community Hospital in Washington, D.C.

A Ludlum 14C survey meter detected radioactivity from the dumpster. Trash was removed from inside the dumpster and monitored for radioactivity. Some newspaper, surgical gloves, and paper towels had detectable amounts of radioactive material on them. These items were placed in a plastic bag. The highest reading from the bag was 80 mR/hr.

The dumpster was surveyed after removing the contaminated articles. No reading above background was detected.

The bag containing the contaminated articles was tagged and placed in the secured radioactive waste storage facility. A sample of contaminated newspaper was taken to Syncor for identification of radioactive material. On April 18, 1994, Syncor identified the contamination as I-131.

It was determined that the amount of I-131 contained in the trash sent to the Irish Road, Little Plymouth, Virginia landfill on April 20 and 21, 1994 was less than 31 uCi.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

HEALTH PHYSICS SERVICES, INC.

Arthur G. Samiljan
Health Physicist