



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

JUN 04 1981

TO ALL MEDICAL LICENSEES:

On June 23, 1980 all medical and academic licensees were sent a letter describing steps that they could take to substantially reduce or eliminate radioactive waste sent to commercial low-level waste disposal facilities. One of these steps was to hold radioactive waste in storage for decay to background levels before disposal in ordinary trash. For those licensees who do not have decay-in-storage as a method for disposal of radioactive waste in their NRC license, this requires a license amendment.

In order to ease the burden of applying for an amendment to your license for decay-in-storage of radioactive waste, we have decided that we will place a condition on all medical and academic licenses which states:

"The licensee is authorized to hold radioactive material with a physical half-life of less than 65 days for decay-in-storage before disposal in ordinary trash provided:

- a. Effected radioactive waste shall be held for decay a minimum of ten (10) half-lives.
- b. Prior to disposal as normal waste, radioactive waste shall be monitored to determine that its radioactivity cannot be distinguished from background with typical low-level laboratory survey instruments. All radiation labels will be removed or obliterated.
- c. Generator columns shall be segregated so that they may be monitored separately to ensure decay to background levels prior to disposal."

There are two ways that the above condition can be incorporated into your license:

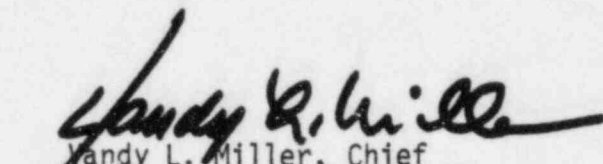
1. Without your prior request, we will automatically place this condition on all medical byproduct material licenses as they are issued in response to new or renewal applications and amendment requests; or
2. If you desire to have this condition placed on your present license right away, you should submit a request for amendment referencing this document. This type of amendment request will be fee exempt.

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To All Medical Licensees

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You are reminded of the requirements contained in 10 CFR 20.105 and 10 CFR 20.207, which address established limits for radiation levels in unrestricted areas and storing or securing radioactive material respectively.


Gandy L. Miller, Chief
Material Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle and
Material Safety, NMSS