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George S. Tosatti
executive vice-president

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January 6, 1984

William T. Wallace, Jr., MD, MPH
Director of Public Health Services
Health & Welfare Building
Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Dr. Wallace:

Regarding your letter of September 1983 which requests comments on this institution's capabilities to deal with individuals exposed to radiation and individuals who are radioactively contaminated, the following hopefully will outline our capabilities.

Our institution most certainly could manage individuals who have experienced an excessive exposure to radiation and are not contaminated. The number of individuals that could be accommodated would depend primarily upon the availability of hospital beds, and the nature of any accompanying problems. It seems reasonable to presume that at times this number might approach twenty, more or less.

The absence of an isolated sewage system and isolated ventilating systems, the physical layout of this hospital's Emergency Department, the lack of nursing and medical staff experienced in dealing with radioactive decontamination, and the potential harm that might result from any of these factors lends our institution incapable of dealing safely with the radioactively contaminated individual. Finally, there exists no specific written protocol for the handling and treatment of exposed, not contaminated, individuals presenting to this institution.

In conclusion, it seems that our capabilities in these two areas are limited to the management of the exposed, no longer contaminated, individual. Should this response not adequately address your questions, or should you desire any further assistance from us in this matter, please contact us.

Sincerely,

George S. Tosatti
Executive Vice President

William N. Windler, MD
Director, Emergency Medicine Department

pc: Charles F. Whittemore

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