

M. J. [Signature]

Ref: SA/LAB

SEP 19 1985

Mr. Thomas E. Hill, Chief
Radioactive Materials Unit
Radiological Health Section
Department of Human Resources
878 Peachtree Street, Room 600
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

Dear Mr. Hill:

In accordance with our conversations, I am providing NRC staff views on the August 16, 1985 request to Georgia from Mr. Allan Chin to add Cs-137 WESF capsules to the Georgia license issued to Radiation Sterilizers, Inc.

We consider the use of the WESF capsules, as proposed, to be in the pilot plant test phase. One plant has been licensed under an arrangement with DOE that it will conduct periodic examinations of the capsules. After the initial phase of the test program has been completed successfully, we would be prepared to license use on a more routine basis. Until then, however, we are prepared to license the use of the WESF capsules as proposed only on the basis that it would be part of the pilot program with similar controls and tests conducted by DOE.

Our current position on licensing of WESF capsules is accurately reflected in the enclosed letter to RSI. We will license use of WESF capsules in a wet storage facility if the Department of Energy (DOE) plans to perform periodic destructive tests on the capsules from that facility. Also, a temperature monitoring system must be installed to record the temperature history of the sources. DOE has indicated it will only test capsules from the RSI Ohio facility. Therefore, we recommend that the State of Georgia take no action on RSI's request at this time.

Please note RSI's statements in its letter to Georgia that DOE is petitioning NRC and RSI expects us to change our policy. DOE has

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Mr. Thomas E. Hill

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informally indicated to us that it plans to submit its latest technical data to us and ask us to review our position. If our position changes as a result of our review, we will inform all interested parties.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:
D. Nussbaumer

Donald A. Nussbaumer
Assistant Director for
State Agreements Program
Office of State Programs

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: w/encl.
R. Woodruff, RII

Distribution+
SA R/F
Dir R/F
JOLubenaus
Georgia file (fc) w/encl and w/incoming
RECunningham, w/oencl
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