

**UNITED STATES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION  
OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
RADIATION SAFETY DIVISION  
5601 SUNNYSIDE AVENUE, MS 5510  
BELTSVILLE, MD 20705

September 14, 2020

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
ATTN: Document Control Desk  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Docket No. 030-06923  
License no. 19-00915-06

Reply to a Notice of Violation

In response to your letter and Notice of Violation dated August 18, 2020, USDA purchased a radiation source of sufficient activity to ensure that a radiation monitoring instrument (room monitor) used with the moving-source irradiator at the Phoenix, Arizona, facility will alarm at 2 milliRem per hour and respond accurately to radiation. In addition, USDA updated the irradiator operation procedures at the Phoenix, Arizona, facility to require that the room monitor be checked with the radiation source at the beginning of each day for accuracy and to ensure that the monitor alarms at 2 milliRem per hour. The revised room monitor check procedures were implemented after the new radiation source was received and tested at the Phoenix facility on August 26, 2020. To avoid further violations, the daily room monitor check will be recorded and the facility manager will periodically review the record to ensure daily checks are performed.

We appreciate you bringing this issue to our attention and thank you for the opportunity to take appropriate corrective actions. Please contact me on 301-504-2441, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

John T. Jensen  
Chief

cc:  
Regional Administrator, Region I, US NRC