



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION IV  
1600 EAST LAMAR BOULEVARD  
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4511

June 27, 2024

Colonel Angela M. Albrecht, Chair  
Radioisotope Committee  
The Department of the Air Force  
Air Force Medical Readiness Agency (AFMRA)  
ATTN: AFMRA/SG3PB (Radiation Health)  
7700 Arlington Blvd, STE 5151  
Falls Church, VA 22042-5151

SUBJECT: AIR FORCE MASTER MATERIAL LICENSE RADIOISOTOPE COMMITTEE –  
RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR INTERPRETATION OF LICENSE CONDITION  
(DOCKET NO. 030-28641)

Dear Col. Angela Albrecht:

In a letter dated June 21, 2024, received on June 14, 2024, you requested that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) determine whether planned actions to inspect and survey the irradiator at Kirtland Air Force Base (KAFB) would have implications for a condition of your license. The purpose of this letter is to provide the requested response.

On March 5, 2024, the Air Force Radioisotope Committee (RIC) notified the NRC that the irradiator at KAFB was stuck with the source partially exposed (Event Report Number (EN) 57007). The RIC provided an update to EN57007 on March 18, 2024, reporting the source had been returned to the fully shielded position. On April 18, 2024, the RIC updated EN57007 to report the source was again stuck in a partially exposed position. To date, efforts to re-shield the source have been unsuccessful and the high dose rates in the radiation room preclude safe entry by humans.

NRC License No. 42-23539-01AF includes License Condition 13 which states:

The United States Air Force Radioisotope Committee shall assure that all installation, repair, maintenance, or removal of irradiators and teletherapy equipment involving the removal of shielding or access to radioactive material will be performed by persons specifically authorized to perform these activities by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission or by an Agreement State.

The RIC intends to use a robot to enter the radiation room to perform a remote inspection of the room and enclosed equipment and take radiation and contamination surveys. This will include air sampling. The purpose is to collect information to support planning for subsequent actions to place the irradiator source in a safe condition. The NRC reviewed the proposed actions and has

concluded that those actions as described would not trigger the actions specified in License Condition 13.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure," this letter and its enclosure will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from ADAMS, (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System) accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter please contact me by email at [Neil.Keefe@nrc.gov](mailto:Neil.Keefe@nrc.gov) or by phone at 817-200-1156.

Sincerely,



Signed by O'Keefe, Cornelius  
on 06/27/24

Neil O'Keefe, Chief  
Materials Licensing Branch  
Division of Radiological Safety & Security

Docket No. 030-28641  
License No. 42-23539-01AF

Enclosure:  
Inspection Document Request

cc w/enclosure:  
Lt. Col. Keith Sanders  
USAF Radioisotope Committee  
Associate Chief  
[keith.a.sanders34.mil@health.mil](mailto:keith.a.sanders34.mil@health.mil)

AIR FORCE MASTER MATERIAL LICENSE RADIOISOTOPE COMMITTEE – RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR INTERPRETATION OF LICENSE CONDITION - DATED JUNE 27, 2024

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DOCUMENT NAME: AIR FORCE MASTER MATERIAL LICENSE RADIOISOTOPE COMMITTEE – RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR INTERPRETATION OF LICENSE CONDITION (DOCKET NO. 030-28641)

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: **ML24179A044**

SUNSI Review:  Yes ADAMS:  Publicly Available  Non-Sensitive

By: NFO

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**From:** [Neil O'Keefe](#)  
**To:** [Albrecht, Angela M Col USAF AFMRA \(USA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Sanders, Keith A Lt Col USAF AF-SG \(USA\)](#); [Eiswerth, Ryan G Maj USAF AFDW SG \(USA\)](#); [KAN, MICHAEL K Lt Col USAF AFIA AFIA/SG](#); [Fishman, Daniel Capt USAF 42 ABW \(USA\)](#); [Jason Dykert](#); [Mohanned Kawasmi](#); [Janine Katanic](#); [Jeremy Groom](#)  
**Subject:** Response to RIC Request for Review of LC13 Impact for Phase 2 Activities  
**Date:** Friday, June 28, 2024 12:33:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [AIR FORCE MASTER MATERIAL LICENSE RADIOISOTOPE COMMITTEE RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR INTERPRETATION OF LICENSE CONDITION.pdf](#)

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Col. Albrecht,

The NRC has reviewed your request dated June 21, 2024, and has concluded that the proposed Phase 2 activities would not impact License Condition 13, so the actions shown in LC13 would not need to be take in this instance.

I provided a verbal summary to Maj Eiswerth and LCol Sanders this morning.

LCol Sanders asked me several clarifying questions this morning, so I think there is a better understanding going forward as planning for future steps continues.

Thanks,

***Neil O'Keefe***

Chief, Materials Licensing Branch  
NRC Region IV  
(817) 200-1156 (o)