



Smithsonian Institution

Office of Safety, Health and Environmental Management
Environmental Management Division

NMSS 2

March 29, 2006

Licensing Assistance Section
Nuclear Materials Safety Branch
ATTN: Jim Dwyer
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region 1
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1415

Re: License Number 08-05938-13
Expiration Date: January 31, 2015
Docket Number 030-30945

Dear Mr. Dwyer:

The Smithsonian Institution (SI) requests an expedited amendment of its current U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Materials License, Number 08-05938-13, in order to support an important research project scheduled to commence on April 19, 2006. Mr. David Peters, SI Radiation Safety Officer, discussed this request submission with Mr. John Nicholson, NRC Health Physicist, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, on March 24, 2006.

The University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS), Duke University and the Universities of Delaware and North Carolina operate research vessels upon which scientific projects are conducted. On March 23, 2006, the Smithsonian was advised that the research vessel R/V Cape Henlopen, which was operated by the University of Delaware and is currently listed on our license, has been retired. The R/V Hugh R. Sharp has been placed in operation by the University of Delaware as a replacement vessel and will be used for the research project scheduled to commence on April 19, 2006. The UNOLS and Duke/University of North Carolina Oceanographic Consortium also operates research vessels that will be used by SI staff for future research projects. As a result of this change, we request authorization to use unsealed byproduct materials, Items 6.A. - F. on our current license, on the R/V Hugh R. Sharp and any other research vessels operated by these organizations.

Research will be limited to in-vitro tracer studies and will be conducted by principle investigators authorized to possess and use radioisotopes under our license. Research protocols and isotope use are similar to work currently conducted in our licensed facilities. Laboratory facilities and equipment to accommodate this use will be commensurate with that identified in our licensed facilities. All research samples and waste materials will be transported back to licensed facilities for disposal. No byproduct

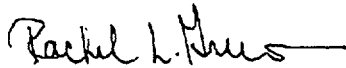
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NMSS/ONI MATERIALS-002

materials will be discharged overboard. Decontamination surveys will be conducted at the conclusion of each cruise to ensure the research vessel's laboratory is decommissioned with regard to the work conducted by SI investigators.

We sincerely regret our oversight in submitting this request in a timely manner and will make every effort to ensure that all future requests are forwarded in a timely manner. Please contact me, at (202) 275-1167, should you have any questions regarding the application.

Sincerely,



Rachel L. Gregory
Associate Director for Environmental Management