



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

REGION III
2443 WARRENVILLE RD. SUITE 210
LISLE, IL 60532-4352

June 30, 2015

Mr. John Lowden, M.S.
Radiation Safety Officer
Indiana University Health Goshen Hospital
Department of Nuclear Medicine
200 High Park Avenue
Goshen, IN 46526

Dear Mr. Lowden:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Region III Office received your letter dated April 3, 2015 requesting disposal of five cobalt-57 check sources that have decayed to background. As you are aware, the half-life of cobalt-57 is greater than 120 days and therefore cannot be disposed of in accordance with 10 CFR 35.92. As such you have requested approval of your proposed disposal of these check sources as non-radioactive waste under the provisions of 10 CFR 20.2002. A review of this request would be conducted by the Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection in NRC Headquarters. The steps that the NRC staff will take in order to review, document, and approve a request for alternative disposal of low-activity waste under the provisions of 10 CFR 20.2002 include:

- Conducting a technical review of the disposal request, including performing dose assessments;
- Preparing a Safety Evaluation Report;
- Preparing an Environmental Assessment and/or Finding of No Significant Impact;
- Coordinating with State regulatory agencies and disposal site operators; and
- Implementing the Communications Plan, where applicable, including conducting public meetings.

NRC staff will establish a fee-reimbursable technical activity code for monitoring time charged to the review – this review is a full-fee recoverable activity. Typically, a request for alternative disposal takes three to four months to complete. Simple requests may be shorter.

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If you wish to pursue your request for alternative disposal, individually address each of the items in 10 CFR 20.2002 (a) (b) (c) and (d), provide all pertinent information regarding the cobalt-57 sources and submit to USNRC, Region III, 2443 Warrenville Road, Lisle, IL 60532. Region III staff will coordinate the review of your request with the Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection in NRC Headquarters.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (630)829-9862.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Toye L. Simmons
Health Physicist
Materials Licensing Branch
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

License No. 13-18845-01
Docket No. 030-14254

J. Lowden, M.S.

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