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April 5, 1989

John E. Glenn  
Nuclear Materials Safety Section A  
Division of Radiation Safety and Safeguards  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region I  
475 Allendale Road  
King of Prussia, Pa 19406

Dear Mr. Glenn:

Before responding to Routine Inspection No. 030-02465/89-001-Appendix A - Notice of Violation, please be advised that there are several errors in the context of the text.

First, there was no removal of radioactive material from a patient on February 20, 1989. In fact, the entire staff was absent and the department was closed because of the President's Day holiday.

In addition, our records indicate that no Cesium 137 was utilized during February of 1989.

However, during the inspection by John T. Jensen, we did engage in dialogue concerning a patient who had been treated with 24.2 mg Ra eq of Iridium 192 (~43 mCi) which was removed on February 22, 1989 in the late evening.

As we discussed at that time, the patient was undergoing treatment to the lung with Iridium 192 seeds in a nylon ribbon guided into place by an endobronchial tube.

The ribbons used are manufactured by Best Industries of Springfield, Virginia and are sealed at the tip with a nylon filament that prevents the seeds from being dislodged.

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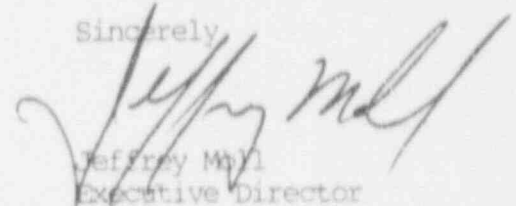
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On the occasion in question, the physician removed the nylon ribbon containing the seeds and verified the integrity of the ribbon and counted the seeds retrieved in the Cesium Room, where this is done conveniently using the "L" block for protection purposes. The number of seeds removed was routinely recorded in the sealed source usage log and was in agreement with the number of seeds recorded as used for this case.

With respect to the now clarified incident the following steps have been implemented and corrective action has been taken as of March 28, 1989:

The Radiation Safety Officer, Dennis Owens, or persons designated by the Radiation Safety Officer will be present at the time of removal of any radioactive sealed sources and will perform and duly record the results at the time of removal of said sources.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Mall  
Executive Director

DO:jmn

cc: Sam I. Brown, M.D.  
S. Lee, M.D.  
D. Owens, M.S.  
S. Srirath, Ph.D.  
B. Molaris, Administrator  
L. Rhatigan, Technical Administrator-Radiology  
E. Kahn, Chief Technologist-Nuclear Medicine