

FEB 05 1993

Docket No. 030-04530
EA No. 92-232

License No. 19-00915-03

U. S. Department of Agriculture
ATTN: R. D. Plowman, Ph. D.
Administrator, Agricultural Research Service
Office of the Administrator
Administration Building
14th and Independence, S. W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Dr. Plowman:

Subject: 1) Proposed Radiological Safety Staff Audit Outline and 2) Proposed Location
Radiation Protection Officer Duties and Responsibilities

This refers to the letter dated February 3, 1993 from E. E. Finney, Jr. of your staff submitting for our review a proposed Radiological Safety Staff Audit and the proposed Location Radiation Protection Officer Duties and Responsibilities as agreed at the Enforcement Conference held in our office on January 19, 1993. We have reviewed the proposed outlines and provide the following comments.

1. Radiological Safety Staff Audit Outline

We have no objection to any of the topics included in the outline submitted. Although this audit is intended to fulfill the requirement of an annual audit by the Radiation Safety Committee, we suggest you consider adding a review of the function of the Radiation Safety Committee, including its duties, responsibilities, and effectiveness.

We are concerned that this audit, limited to "a few days", will not review any of the topics in sufficient depth for the auditor to develop realistic recommendations for improvement. However, the audit may help to determine those areas which need priority attention, and can be a useful first step in determining the scope of a future, more extensive assessment of the USDA radiation safety program.

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2. Location Radiation Protection Officer Duties and Responsibilities

We have no objection to the duties described. However, we recommend that you include these persons on the mailing lists for all general information notices or letters that are sent to responsible users so that the Location Radiation Protection Officers are aware of new information and have available a copy of those documents that responsible users should have. We also recommend that you develop guidelines for the review of the activities of these individuals by the Radiation Safety Staff, and guidelines for their role during inspection of the responsible users by the Radiation Safety Staff.

We understand that you will provide us with a schedule for completion of the audit by March 31, 1993. Please inform us in writing of any changes in the schedule, or any significant changes in the proposed audit outline. If you have any questions, I would be happy to discuss them with you at (215) 337-5281.

The staff contact for this matter is E. Ullrich at (215) 337-5040.

Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Cooper, II
Director
Division of Radiation Safety and
Safeguards

cc:

Public Document Room (PDR)

U. S. Department of Agriculture

ATTN: Essex E. Finney, Jr.

Associate Administrator, Agricultural Research Service

Office of the Administrator

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14th and Independence, S. W.

Washington, D.C. 20250

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U.S. Department of Agriculture, ARS

ATTN: A. Nies

Deputy Administrator

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U.S. Department of Agriculture, ARS

ATTN: Lewis Smith, Ph.D., Chairman

Radiation Safety Committee

Beltsville Area Research Center

Beltsville, Maryland 20705

U.S. Department of Agriculture, ARS

ATTN: John T. Jensen, Director

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bcc:

Region I Docket Room (w/concurrences)

T. Martin, RI

R. Cooper, RI

S. Shankman, RI

R. Bellamy, RI

J. Kinneman, RI

E. Ullrich, RI

J. Glenn, NMSS

D. Holody, RI

RI:DRSS
Ullrich

2/5/93

RI:DRSS
Kinneman

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Bellamy

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Shankman

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He agreed & had no objections
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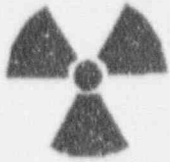
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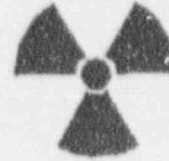
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USDA RADIOLOGICAL SAFETY STAFF



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SENT BY: JOHN T. JENSEN

DATE: 2/3/93 TIME: 3:45

Comments: _____

Number of Pages Including Cover: 6