

OCT 30 1996

Docket No. 030-00761

License No. 20-00882-03

S. F. Conti, Vice Chancellor  
University of Massachusetts  
N414 Morrill Science Center  
Amherst, Massachusetts 01003

SUBJECT: INSPECTION NO. 030-00761/96-001

Dear Mr. Conti:

On August 5, 1996 to September 13, 1996, James M. Bondick of this office conducted a safety inspection at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Massachusetts of activities authorized by the above listed NRC license. The inspection was limited to a review of the event involving Ac-227 which occurred on July 24, 1996. A copy of the NRC inspection report is enclosed. In addition, our inspection examined the activities covered in your correspondence dated August 9 and 29, 1996, and September 4, 11, 12, and 13, 1996. The results of the inspection were discussed with Mr. Donald Robinson, Director of Environmental Health and Safety, Dr. Kandula Sastry, Chairman of the Physics Department, and representatives of other disciplines from the University on August 7, 1996. This also refers to telephone conversations on July 29, July 30, August 5, and August 20, 1996 between Mr. James Tocci, RSO, and Mr. Bondick.

The focus of this inspection was a review of a possible uptake of radioactive material during an inventory of licensed material conducted by the Radiation Safety staff. While the results of your evaluation of the individual's exposure were adequate and appropriate, and indicate little, if any, actual exposure, we are concerned about the effectiveness of communication among the assigned supervisors and the radiation safety staff and the thoroughness of planning of actual work with licensed material. In your response to this letter, please describe your evaluation of these issues and any plans to improve communication and planning.

Based on the results of this inspection, it appears that your activities were not conducted in full compliance with NRC requirements. A Notice of Violation is enclosed and categorizes each violation by severity level in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions," (Enforcement Policy), NUREG 1600. You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. In your response, you should document the specific actions taken and any additional actions you plan to prevent recurrence. Your response may reference or include previous docketed correspondence, if the correspondence adequately addresses the required response. After reviewing your response to this Notice, including your proposed corrective actions and the results of future inspections, the NRC will determine whether further NRC enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with NRC regulatory requirements.

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Please use the enclosed self-addressed green envelope when you respond to this letter to assist us in the timely processing of your response. In accordance with Section 2.790 of NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter and your reply will be placed in the Public Document Room (PDR). To the extent possible, your response should not include any personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information so that it can be placed in the PDR without redaction. However, if you find it necessary to include such information, you should clearly indicate the specific information that you desire not to be placed in the PDR, and provide the legal basis to support your request for withholding the information from the public. The responses directed by this letter and the accompanying Notice are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, PL 96-511.

In your letter dated September 11, 1996, you state that a whole body count of Individual A was performed on August 2, 1996, and that the results were not conclusive. To enable us to complete our review, please provide the results of the data related to the whole body count of Individual A performed at the FDA/WEAC facility and provide copies of the results of the urine and fecal samples sent to RESL at Idaho National Engineering Laboratories.

Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:**

John D. Kinneman, Chief  
Nuclear Material Safety Branch 2  
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Docket No.: 030-00761  
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Enclosures:

1. Notice of Violation
2. Inspection Report No. 030-00761/96-001

cc w/enclosures:

James Tocci, Radiation Safety Officer  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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S. F. Conti  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst

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