

Mallinckrodt, Inc.

Raymond F. Bentele
President
Chief Executive Officer

March 26, 1985

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(314) 895-2115

Secretary
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

54-54

Attention: Chief, Docketing and Service Section

Re: Operating License Transfer Application
for Sterling Forest Research Reactor
(Facility Operating License No. R-81)

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I understand that the Commission presently has under review an application by Union Carbide Corporation to transfer an operating license for the Sterling Forest research reactor to Medi-Physics, a subsidiary of Hoffman-LaRoche. This is to advise you that Mallinckrodt, Inc. intends to file a petition for leave to intervene in that proceeding within the next ten days, and to request that the Commission withhold approval of the pending transfer application until it has had an opportunity to consider the issues to be presented in our petition for leave to intervene.

In 1980-81 Mallinckrodt submitted a bid for the Sterling Forest reactor but the bid was rejected by Union Carbide. The reactor is the only United States source capable of producing fission molybdenum 99 on a commercial basis with regular deliveries. The only other North American source for that isotope is the Atomic Energy Commission Ltd. of Canada. If the transfer application is approved by the Commission, it would leave the only available sources of molybdenum 99 in the hands of Mallinckrodt's foreign competitors. As we plan to show in our petition for leave to intervene, the transfer would be inimical to the common defense and security and to the health and safety of the public and should therefore be denied.

Yours very truly,

R. F. Bentele
Raymond F. Bentele

cc: Robert J. Ross, Esq. ✓

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