

DMB COPY

SEP 25 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Charles H. Weil, Investigation and Compliance Specialist

FROM: Jack A. Hind, Director, Division of Radiation Safety
and Safeguards

SUBJECT: ALLEGATION RE: MOUTH PIPETTING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS AT CHAMPAIGN (42-00330-05) (AMS NO. RIII-
85-A-0015) ¹²

On July 8, 1985, an anonymous individual contacted Region III by telephone and made allegations concerning NRC-licensed activities at the University of Illinois at Champaign (telephone log is included as Report Attachment A).

On July 12, 1985, the licensee was notified of the allegations and was requested to immediately perform an investigation into these matters and report their findings to this office (notice/request letter is included as Report Attachment B).

The licensee performed their investigation and responded in a letter dated September 10, 1985 (Report Attachment C). The licensee's report indicates that the allegation pertaining to mouth pipetting was in part substantiated, and includes corrective actions taken (see University of Illinois memorandum dated September 10, 1985, Report Attachment D).

The specific allegations, University findings, and the NRC's evaluation are included in the attached Allegation Followup Report. While one allegation was substantiated and constituted an apparent item of noncompliance (i.e., mouth pipetting); the licensee will not be required to respond in that their investigation and corrective actions have been evaluated by my staff and were found to be adequate.

We will review the effectiveness of the licensee's corrective actions during the next routine inspection.

We consider this allegation/inquiry closed.

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REG3 LIC30
12-00330-05 PDR

Jack A. Hind, Director
Division of Radiation Safety
and Safeguards

Attachments: As stated

RIII

RCS
Burgin/jl
9/26/85

RIII

Wiedeman
9/20/85

RIII

Axelsson
9/24/85

RIII

Hind

IE07
11

Phone Log

7/8/85 1030

UNIV. OF ILLINOIS - URBANA

12-00330-~~0506, 09, 10~~ Priority 2 Categ. F1A

CALL FROM ANONYMOUS INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYED IN MICROBIOLOGY DEPT., CALLER STATED THAT PERSONS IN THE DEPT. ROUTINELY MOUTH PIPETTE RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL (PRIMARILY P-32). ALTHOUGH DANGERS ARE KNOWN, CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS FEEL THAT PIPETTING BY MOUTH IS THE BEST METHOD AVAILABLE. THE PRACTICE IS HIDDEN FROM INDIVIDUALS OUTSIDE OF THE DEPT. (HOSES KEPT IN DRAWERS, ETC).

AMOUNTS PIPETTED ARE IN μCi RANGE ($\approx 60 \mu\text{Ci}$ max). CALLER HAS MOUTH PIPETTED P-32 WHILE IN THE DEPT., AND KNOWS OF A NUMBER OF OTHERS WHO HAVE ALSO. THE CALLER STATED THAT OTHER LABS USE MECHANICAL PIPETTERS FOR SIMILAR PURPOSES.

THE CALLER HAS INGESTED RADIOACTIVE SOLUTION WHILE USING THIS METHOD AND IS SURE MOST OTHERS IN THE DEPT. HAVE ALSO.

DR. GEORGE KONISKI IS THE LAB HEAD. SOME OF THE MOUTH PIPETTING HAS OCCURRED IN DR. STANLEY MALLOY'S LAB AND IN SEPARATE DNA SEQUENCING ROOM RUN BY MALLOY. THESE AREAS ARE LOCATED ON THE 2ND FLOOR OF BURRILL HALL.

J. Lynch

JUL 12 1985

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign
ATTN: Henry H. Koertge, Director
Division of Environmental Health
and Safety
317 McKinley Hospital
1109 South Lincoln Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801

License No. 12-00330-05

Gentlemen:

This refers to our receipt of allegations concerning unsafe practices in the handling of byproduct materials authorized by NRC License No. 12-00330-05. The specific allegations follow.

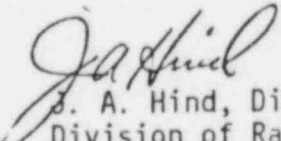
1. Individuals in the Microbiology Department routinely mouth pipette radioactive material (primarily P-32).
2. Individuals have ingested radioactive solutions.

The allegor further indicated that proper procedures and the dangers of mouth pipetting radioactive material were known to the involved individuals, and that the practice was hidden from persons outside of the department. The specific laboratories referenced are located on the second floor of Burrill Hall, and are under the control of Drs. George Koniski and Stanley Malloy.

We request that you immediately perform an investigation into these matters and report your findings to this office. Your findings and corrective actions (if appropriate) will be evaluated to determine whether an additional investigation by our office is warranted.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Robert E. Burgin of this office at (312) 790-5622.

Sincerely,


J. A. Hind, Director
Division of Radiation
Safety and Safeguards

ATTACHMENT B

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