

DCD

January 17, 1997

Beverly Pitts, Associate Provost  
Ball State University  
2000 University Avenue  
Muncie, IN 47306

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Dr. Pitts:

This refers to the inspection initiated on September 24, 1996 with continuing in-office review through January 10, 1997, at the Ball State University campus in Muncie, Indiana. The purpose of the inspection was to determine whether activities authorized by the license were conducted safely and in accordance with NRC requirements. At the conclusion of the site inspection on September 24, 1996, the preliminary findings were discussed with members of your staff. On October 30, 1996, additional information was received from Dr. Bennett of your staff, at the request of our inspector. The inspection was completed in our office and the findings were discussed in separate telecons with you on January 13, 1997 and Dr. Bennett on January 10, 1997.

The inspection was an examination of activities conducted under your license as they relate to radiation safety and to compliance with the Commission's rules and regulations and with the conditions of your license. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, independent measurements and observation of activities in progress.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that violations of NRC requirements occurred. These violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice). A written response is required.

In addition, the inspection identified concerns with the following two areas of your NRC-licensed program:

1. Laboratory Audits

The Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) conducts quarterly audits of each laboratory using radioactive material, as required. We were informed by the RSO during the inspection that these audits generally do not reveal safety or compliance problems. However, since three of the four violations identified during the inspection were a result of our inspectors audit of two laboratories, we are concerned with the adequacy of your audit program.

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2. Storage of Radioactive Waste

License Condition 16 requires that radioactive waste not be stored for a period greater than two years. As of September 24, 1996, the last shipment of long-lived radioactive waste (tritium and carbon-14) made by the university occurred in October 1992. Although the university has generated long-lived radioactive waste since the last waste shipment, compliance with License Condition 16 could not be determined because an adequate system has not been implemented to regularly inventory and track the production and storage of radioactive wastes.

In addition to your response to the violations in the Notice, please provide a written response to the two concerns described above, describing those actions taken or planned to improve your laboratory audit program and plans to develop a better radioactive waste inventory and accountability system.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, the enclosure, and your response to this letter will be placed in the NRC 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.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by Roy J. Caniano

Cynthia D. Pederson, Director  
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

License No.: 13-06231-01  
Docket No.: 030-00700

Enclosure: Notice of Violation

bcc w/encl: PUBLIC IE07  
B. Clayton

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