

Science Advancing Health

January 28, 1997

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Mr. Richard Boyle, Chief
Office of Hazardous Materials Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
400-7th Street, S.W. Room 8430
Washington, D.C.
USA 20590

Dear Mr. Boyle,


Re: Special Arrangement Certificate for Gammacell 220 S/N 46X

Further to your letter dated January 23, 1997, I would like to answer your concerns by providing an update for MDS Nordion's plan to design an overpack for the Gammacell 220 irradiators.

As Ms. V. Govindapillai indicated in her May 3, 1996 letter to the USNRC, MDS Nordion was convinced that the design of the overpack was necessary. MDS Nordion remains committed to the design and approval of the overpack. The project was approved for the 1997 business plan, with significant resources and priority assigned to the project. The project plan that has been completed calls for the design and testing to be carried out over this year and next. MDS Nordion plans to submit the Safety analysis generated through the design and testing for review to the USNRC by early 1999.

I recognize there was a commitment to supply you with an update on the overpack projects, however due to staffing changes this did not occur. I commit to providing you with future updates on a semi-annual basis as we move forward with this process. I hope this status report allows you to complete your review of the Special Arrangement Certificate for the Gammacell 220 S/N 46X. If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Ronald McGregor,
Manager, Regulatory Affairs

cc. Mr. Cass R. Chappell

USNRC

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