

November 6, 1996

Docket Nos.: 030-02981
030-00462
030-30452

License Nos. 37-01317-01
37-01317-02
37-01317-03

EA 94-051

George C. King
Vice President
Allegheny General Hospital
320 East North Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15212-9980

SUBJECT: CLOSURE OF CONFIRMATORY ORDER MODIFYING LICENSE (EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY) DATED MARCH 17, 1994

Dear Mr. King:

On March 17, 1994, NRC issued a Confirmatory Order Modifying License (Effective Immediately) (Order) which described Allegheny General Hospital's commitment to retain the services of an independent expert to assess your licensed program, and to develop an improvement plan based on those assessment findings. The need for the independent program assessment and the improvement plan was identified during a routine NRC inspection conducted December 13-20, 1993. That inspection found numerous violations of NRC requirements which demonstrated a significant lack of management attention to, and control of, licensed activities at your facility.

In accordance with Item IV.A and IV.B of the Order, an independent expert was retained and the program assessment was completed on May 20, 1994. A copy of the independent expert's report was submitted to NRC on June 15, 1994. In the report, the independent expert concluded that the radiation safety program at Allegheny General Hospital "compared favorably with other broad scope medical programs" and "represented a strong program". Still, the independent expert recommended twelve specific changes to strengthen the program. These changes were in the areas of: Radiation Safety Committee (RSC) oversight, structure, and responsibilities; authorized user responsibilities; training; staffing; internal auditing; Radiation Safety Office staff communications with the RSC; strategic planning; and continuous quality improvement.

In accordance with Item IV.C of the Order and based on all of the independent expert's recommendations, a Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) was developed and submitted to NRC on August 15, 1994. The PIP described twelve Action Items completed or to be performed, the timetable for completion of each item, and a system for monitoring the status and completion of each item.

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In accordance with Item IV.D of the Order, quarterly status reports were submitted to NRC on October 25, 1994; February 14, 1995; May 15, 1995; August 28, 1995; and October 31, 1995. A final report was submitted to NRC on April 2, 1996. All but one of the independent expert's recommendations was implemented. The one recommendation that was not implemented, that the RSC establish an Executive Subcommittee to act on interim matters, required NRC approval. As part of the license renewal process, on July 11, 1994, a letter was submitted to NRC requesting that the license be amended to allow the Executive Subcommittee to provide initial approval of research protocols and change authorized limits for ordering or storage of byproduct material, in advance of full approval by the RSC at the next scheduled meeting. By letter dated August 15, 1994, NRC advised that the regulations reserved these powers for the RSC and requested more specific criteria for interim Subcommittee authorizations. The request for license amendment was subsequently withdrawn in a letter dated November 23, 1994.

NRC has determined that all of the commitments described in the Order have been completed. The Confirmatory Order Modifying License is closed. No reply to this letter is required.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Charles W. Hehl, Director
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

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cc:
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

G. C. King
Allegheny General Hospital

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