

February 12, 1997

Mr. Robert A. Zoon, M.E., M.S.
Radiation Safety Officer
Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health
21 Wilson Drive
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

Dear Mr. Zoon:

This is in reference to the concern you raised in your letter to me dated January 15, 1997. In your letter you indicated that an erroneous statement was made on page 39 of our Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) Report (Report No. 030-01786/95-002). The statement reads "The RSB stated that, after the identification of the contaminated water cooler on July 14, they were reluctant to contact the water cooler company".

This issue was discussed with each of the AIT team members and Region I staff members who were present during telephone discussions with you and your staff on July 14, 1995. Based on these discussions, we believe that there was an initial reluctance to contact the water cooler company. It is also the recollection of the team members that once this issue was further discussed with you and your staff, appropriate actions were initiated.

In your letter you requested that a copy of your letter be placed in the Public Document Room, that further copies of the AIT report be corrected, and that the copy placed in the NRC's Public Document Room be corrected to eliminate this inaccurate statement. A copy of your letter was placed in the NRC Public Document Room, however, based on our review of this issue, we believe that the AIT report is essentially accurate, therefore, no corrections to the AIT inspection report are warranted.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter will be placed in the Public Document Room.

Thank you for the information that you provided. Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Hubert J. Miller
Regional Administrator

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cc:
State of Maryland

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