

February 18, 1997

Veterans Affairs Medical Center
ATTN: Mr. David Whatley
Medical Center Director
2460 Wrightsboro Road
Augusta, GA 30910

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO CHANGE NRC LICENSE CATEGORY
(LICENSE NO. 10-08389-03, CONTROL NO. 256012)

Dear Mr. Whatley:

This responds to Mr. Thomas L. Ayers's letter dated July 13, 1994, in which he requested that NRC change your license authorization from a broad scope program to a "hybrid broad scope program." As discussed in a telephone conversation between Earl Wright of my staff and Dr. James S. Davis, Ph.D., Medical Center Radiation Safety Officer on February 14, 1997, we are terminating action on your request. The basis for this action is twofold:

1. Your request is contrary to the NRC regulations in 10 CFR Parts 33 and 35, Sections 33.1 and 35.15. Your license, as currently written, was issued based upon certain authorities that are reserved for licenses categorized as "broad scope". Your request was for the NRC to change your license category to a "limited scope"; however, you desired to maintain some of the authorities reserved for broad scope licensees. These authorities include the use of any chemical and physical form of byproduct material for uses specified by your radiation safety committee in lieu of approval by the NRC. The authorities also include those items exempted from 10 CFR 35.13 and 35.14 as listed in 10 CFR 35.15.
2. You do not wish to pursue your request at this time in view of the changes that transpired since the request date.

Further guidance on what has been considered broad scope and not limited scope authorization is contained in Sections 1.1 and 1.2 of the enclosed draft Regulatory Guide DG-0005, "Applications for Licenses of Broad Scope", October 1994.

Since your request, the NRC has allowed certain authorizations, such as the approval of non-medical users on a limited scope license issued to the Veterans Affairs license in Northport, New York. Note that if you desire to change your license to allow a similar authorization, you will need to change your program and submit it to the NRC for approval. You should also note that Section 35.13 was revised to provide authorization to limited scope licenses for approving medical authorized users based upon certification specifications in paragraph (a) of Sections 35.910, 35.920, 35.930, 35.940, 35.950 and 35.960.

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If you have any questions on this matter, we would be glad to discuss them with you. Questions regarding fee requirements, should be directed to Glenda Jackson at (301) 415-6057. Questions in other areas, should be directed to John Potter at (404) 331-5571.

I apologize for the delay in responding to your request.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by J. Potter for

Bruce S. Mallett, Director
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Docket No.: 030-17081
License No.: 10-08389-03

Enclosure:
Draft Regulatory Guide DG-0005,
"Applications for Licenses of
Broad Scope", October 1994

cc w/encl:
Francis Herbig, DVA Coordinator
VA Medical Center, St. Louis
State of Georgia

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