



PDR

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

DEC 27 1985

Eugene L. Saenger, M.D.
The University of Cincinnati
Radiation Safety Office
ML 569 J Pavilion
Cincinnati, OH 45267-0569

Dear Dr. Saenger:

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY CASE STUDY REPORT - RUPTURE OF AN IODINE-125
BRACHYTHERAPY SOURCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI
MEDICAL CENTER

The rupture of an iodine-125 seed used in brachytherapy treatment at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center has been studied by AEOD. A preliminary report of the study is enclosed.

In accordance with our peer review process, prior to finalization and distribution of our case study reports, we are providing interested organizations with a copy of the preliminary report for review and comment, particularly regarding accuracy and completeness of the technical details. The preliminary findings, conclusions, and recommendations are provided in order to give a more complete picture of the entire report. Changes to the findings, conclusions, and recommendations will be made if the underlying information concerning the events is in error. Therefore, comments are being solicited on the technical accuracy of the report.

In addition to any comments that you may have on the accuracy and completeness of the technical detail, we would also like to know if the University of Cincinnati plans to resume the use of high intensity iodine-125 seeds in brachytherapy treatment. In a memorandum from you to Bernard S. Aron, M.D. and Peter Y.C. Ho, M.D., you recommended "...that the use of high intensity iodine-125 seeds for brachytherapy be terminated until the safety and health physics aspects of these seeds are further clarified...."

We would like to receive comments by the end of January 1986 in order to give them timely review before we issue the final report. Should you need additional review time please let us know.

Eugene L. Saenger, M.D.

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We welcome comments either informally by phone or formally by letter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sam Pettijohn at 301-492-4496.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

C. J. Heltemes, Jr.

C. J. Heltemes, Jr., Director
Office for Analysis and Evaluation
of Operational Data

Enclosure:
As Stated

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