

March 11, 1997

MEMORANDUM TO: John Madera, Chief
Nuclear Materials Inspection Branch 1
Region III

FROM: Donald A. Cool, Director (orig. signed by)
Division of Industrial and
Medical Nuclear Safety, NMSS

SUBJECT: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST CONCERNING CERAC, INC., AND
EFFLUENT RELEASES TO THE SANITARY SEWER

I am responding to your technical assistance request dated February 20, 1997, (attached) requesting a determination if passing radioactive material liquid effluents through a 0.45 micron filter is an adequate methodology to insure compliance with 10 CFR 20.2003(a)(1). In a letter from Cerac, Inc., dated February 11, 1997, the licensee proposes to use a 0.45 micron filter, or smaller, and pass all liquid effluent in question through it prior to discharge to the sanitary sewer.

The filtration and radiometric analysis of suspended solids is described as an acceptable method for determining solubility of an effluent in Information Notice 94-07, "Solubility Criteria for Liquid Effluent Releases to Sanitary Sewerage Under the Revised 10 CFR Part 20." The Notice cited as acceptable procedures using a 0.45 micron filter to determine the suspended solids in the effluent. The IN indicates "... activity in the suspended solids portion of the effluent greater than that found in similarly processed background water would indicate the presence of insoluble radioactive material." Conversely, if the material passes through the filter, the portion that passes through should be considered soluble. Therefore, the proposal by the licensee in Cerac's February 11, 1997, letter is deemed adequate to show compliance with 10 CFR 20.2003(a)(1). It should be noted that a 0.2 micron filter, mentioned in their letter, is neither used in the standard analysis, nor is it required to show compliance.

Attachment: As stated
CONTACT: Joe DeCicco, NMSS/IMNS
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e-mail (jxd1)

Distribution: IMNS 5713 (SEE NEXT PAGE)

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