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27 February 1997

Document Control Desk
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

re: Reply to Notice of Violation

Dear Sirs,

This document is sent in response to the notice of violation received following our November 1996 NRC inspection. The violation concerns inadequate security for radioisotopes.

To date, we have submitted numerous reports to NRC. These were submitted in response to a Confirmatory Action Agreement (CAL No. 1-96-014). In aggregate they substantially form our response to the notice of violation. These reports, dated 5 and 20 December 1996 and 9 January 1997 are attached. The 9 January report gives a good breakdown of our response to the violation and should perhaps be read first.

The sole issue that needs clarification in this report is the date on which full compliance will be achieved and the date on which the the results of the final audit will be reported to NRC.

As previously specified, the security improvements are about 75% complete as of this date. Unfortunately our system is electrically controlled via computer and we found that to complete the project we would need additional control panels, etc. We obtained a cost estimate via outside contractor, which took several weeks, and then petitioned the hospital corporation for contingency funding to cover the costs. This funding was approved on 21 February 1997 and a copy of the approval notice is enclosed. You may note that the approval does not cover the addition of stairwell locks. This, however, is not related to the issue of radioisotope security but to building security in general. None of the laboratories are accessible via stairwells.

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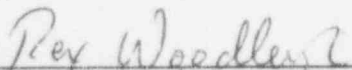



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Pending a meeting of our security task group this afternoon that will perform one final review of the proposed work we expect to give the go ahead for work to begin on about 6 March 1997. The project should be completed within three weeks. The audit will be completed on the first normal workday following project completion and the results sent to NRC one day later.

Once gain, we beg your patience in this process. Although efforts of smaller scope could have been completed more quickly we remain convinced that our current plan, although requiring time to complete, provides a long term solution for the security of all forms of radioactivity used or resulting from our research programs including stock radioactive solutions, hot experiments and radioactive waste.

Sincerely,


Rex Woodleigh, M.M.Sc.
MGH Radiation Safety Officer


Maryanne Spicer, Director
Corporate Compliance

cc. U.S.N.R.C.
Region I Administrator