

10-95-112



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October 24, 1995

Thomas T. Martin  
Regional Administrator  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
475 Allendale Road  
King of Prussia PA 19406-1415  
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Dear Mr. Martin,

Following is our response to your letter of October 17, 1995, relative to our reported intake of 579 microcuries of  $^{32}\text{P}$  by a researcher in our Center for Cancer Research.

1. As agreed, we have assessed whether the security of radioisotopes at MIT is adequate to provide reasonable assurance that there will not be a recurrence of an incident such as the one under evaluation. All MIT employees and students who use radioactive materials are required to undergo training in the proper handling of these materials, with retraining at two year intervals.

If the incident were the result of a deliberate act by others in the laboratory, we believe that the actions taken by the MIT Radiation Protection Office immediately after the discovery of this incident (tightened security for stock materials with access restricted to a source curator with specific deputies and a signout and accountability procedure for all materials used) provides the required assurance in the laboratory in which the incident occurred.

During the IIT activities at the MIT campus, the IIT team has raised questions relative to the control of access to other laboratory areas where licensed material is used or stored. The Radiation Protection Office has reviewed this situation and has strengthened the control over all stock materials in the Center for Cancer Research to assure that access to the lab areas will not result in access to unattended stock materials.

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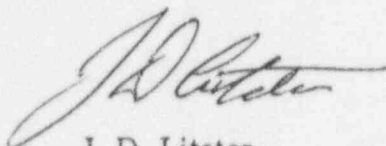
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We also propose to convene a special meeting of the MIT Radiation Protection Committee within 30 days of this letter to discuss the possibility of expanding this tightened security approach to the other unsealed activity laboratories throughout the Institute. The Committee will also be asked to assess whether our current training practices are adequate to minimize the possibility of an accidental intake by a trained radiation worker in the course of his or her activities.

We will notify you of our plans in this regard within 15 days of that meeting, and agree to begin implementation of any revised procedures as soon as they are adopted by the Committee.

2. The integrity of all samples and records associated with the  $^{32}\text{P}$  intake has been protected since the beginning of our investigation in August.
3. We are cooperating fully with your incident investigation team and providing them with all available data and materials relative to this issue as they may request them.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. D. Litster", with a stylized, flowing script.

J. D. Litster