

Docket No.
(10 C.F.R. § 2.206)

Mr. William B. Schatz
General Counsel
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District
3826 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2504

Dear Mr. Schatz,

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your letter of August 19, 1994, on behalf of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) to James Taylor, Executive Director of Operations of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The Petition requests that the NRC amend Advanced Medical System's (AMS's) License No. 34-19089-01 to require AMS to install, maintain, and operate a radiation alarm system on all drains at 1020 London Road, Cleveland, Ohio (AMS Facility) that lead to either sanitary or storm sewers.

The Petition asserts as the bases for this request that it views the quantity of cobalt-60 waste in the basement of the AMS facility as a major threat; that the NRC admits that the existing contamination at the AMS Facility continues to pose a risk; that the contamination that exists at the AMS Facility is estimated to be 393 curies of loose, "talcum-like" cobalt scattered upon the floor of the waste hold-up room in the basement; that cobalt-60 contamination was found in the sewer line connecting the AMS Facility to the public sewer and was found in the public sewer directly under the AMS discharge; that the NEORS has already incurred costs of nearly \$2 million addressing loose cobalt-60 contamination at its Easterly and Southerly Wastewater treatment plants; that the NRC has been unable or unwilling to explain the source of the cobalt-60 on the NEORS property and unable to identify any likely sources for the cobalt-60 other than the AMS Facility; that the quantity of cobalt-60 at the Southerly Plant exceeds that which the AMS records show was released by AMS into the sewer system; and that License Amendment No. 10 to the original license for this site, issued to Picker in 1962, contained a requirement for an alarm system to detect unmonitored discharges. The Petitioner states that such an alarm system was not a condition of the subsequent AMS license despite a recommendation from Oak Ridge Associated Universities that such an alarm system be installed along with control valves to shut off flow to the sewer if the alarm sounds.

Your Petition has been referred to the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards for action in accordance with 10 C.F.R. 2.206. As provided by 10 C.F.R. 2.206, the NRC will take

appropriate action on your request within a reasonable time. I have enclosed for your information a copy of the notice that is being filed with the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Bernero, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated

cc: Advanced Medical Systems, Inc.

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Docket No.

ADVANCED MEDICAL SYSTEMS, INC.
(License No. 34-19089-01)

RECEIPT OF PETITION FOR DIRECTOR'S DECISION
UNDER 10 C.F.R. § 2.206

Notice is hereby given that by Petition dated August 19, 1994, William B Schatz, on behalf of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) requested that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) take action with regard to Advanced Medical Systems, Inc. (AMS). Petitioner requests that the NRC amend AMS's License No. 34-19089-01 to require AMS to install, maintain, and operate a radiation alarm system on all drains at 1020 London Road, Cleveland, Ohio (AMS Facility) that lead to either sanitary or storm sewers.

Petitioner asserts as the bases for this request that it views the quantity of cobalt-60 waste in the basement of the AMS facility as a major threat; that the NRC admits that the existing contamination at the AMS Facility continues to pose a risk; that the contamination that exists at the AMS Facility is estimated to be 393 curies of loose, "talcum-like" cobalt scattered upon the floor of the waste hold-up room in the basement; that cobalt-60 contamination was found in the sewer line connecting the AMS Facility to the public sewer and was found in the public sewer directly under the AMS discharge; that the NEORS has already incurred costs of nearly \$2 million addressing loose cobalt-60 contamination at its Easterly and Southerly Wastewater treatment plants; that the NRC has been unable or unwilling to explain the

source of the cobalt-60 on the NEORS property and unable to identify any likely sources for the cobalt-60 other than the AMS Facility; that the quantity of cobalt-60 at the Southerly Plant exceeds that which the AMS records show was released by AMS into the sewer system; and that License Amendment No. 10 to the original license for this site, issued to Picker in 1962, contained a requirement for an alarm system to detect unmonitored discharges. The Petitioner states that such an alarm system was not a condition of the subsequent AMS license despite a recommendation from Oak Ridge Associated Universities that such an alarm system be installed along with control valves to shut off flow to the sewer if the alarm sounds.

The Petition has been referred to the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards pursuant to 10 C.F.R. 2.206. As provided by Section 2.206, appropriate action will be taken with regard to the specific issue raised by the Petition in a reasonable time.

A copy of the Petition is available for inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room at 2110 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20555.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Robert M. Bernero, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Dated at Rockville, Maryland

This _____ day of _____ 1994.