



UNITED STATES  
**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
REGION I  
475 ALLENDALE ROAD  
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406-1415

May 20, 2008

Docket No. 03034162

License No. 29-30308-01

Mark Smith, C.H.P.  
Vice President, Radiation Services  
Sterigenics International, Inc.  
10811 Withers Cove Park Drive  
Charlotte, NC 28278

SUBJECT: INSPECTION 03034162/2007002, STERIGENICS EAST CORPORATION,  
ROCKAWAY, NEW JERSEY

Dear Mr. Smith:

This letter forwards NRC Form 591, "Safety Inspection," indicating that no items of non-compliance were found during the above described inspection of your licensed activities. Please retain the form in your files. We recently identified that this letter had not been transmitted to you, and apologize for this delay. In addition, we are using this opportunity to document two issues for your further consideration.

The first concern is based from our review of maintenance logs and training files that identified that newly qualified irradiator operators are placed on night shift, when there is minimal management supervision or support. As you know, the safe operation of the irradiator is balanced by the use of trained skilled operators and the upkeep and maintenance of the irradiator. At your Rockaway facility, when the irradiator stops due to a problem, the irradiator operator can attempt the repairs, or contact the maintenance supervisor for verbal instructions, or request that the maintenance supervisor respond to the facility for the necessary repairs. From your maintenance logs, we noted that as of November 15, 2007, you had approximately 598 minutes of unplanned maintenance for November. About half of this downtime was attributed to a piston problem that occurred on November 3, 2007, when a newly qualified night shift irradiator operator was unable to make the necessary repairs and did not seek additional support. The day shift operator had the repair completed and the irradiator operational within an hour of his shift. While the irradiator was safety shutdown during this period, we are concerned with the newly qualified operator's knowledge of your maintenance procedures.

The second concern is in regard to your possession of an unknown radioactive source that has been stored in a basket in the pool for over ten years at the Rockaway facility. We request that you develop a plan to have the source analyzed along with plans for its proper disposition, since it had not been used and should be considered radioactive waste. To assist with unwanted sources of concern, the NRC provided funding to the Conference for Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) to implement a program for the safe disposition of unwanted radioactive sources. Dr. Terry Devine is the Technical Assistant (General Radiation) for Unwanted Radioactive Materials, General Health Physics, Transportation at CRCPD, and he can be contacted at (502) 227-4543 extension 2223. We will review your progress on this matter during a subsequent inspection.

M. Smith

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Current NRC regulations are included on the NRC's website at [www.nrc.gov](http://www.nrc.gov) ; select **Nuclear Materials; Medical, Academic, and Industrial Uses of Nuclear Material**; then **Regulations, Guidance, and Communications Page**. The current Enforcement Policy is included on the NRC's website at [www.nrc.gov](http://www.nrc.gov) ; select **About NRC, How We Regulate; Enforcement**; then **Enforcement Policy**. You may also obtain these documents by contacting the Government Printing Office (GPO) toll-free at 1-866-512-1800. The GPO is open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday (except Federal holidays).

No acknowledgment of this letter is required. Please contact Kathy Modes at (610) 337-5251, if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

***Original signed by Marie Miller***

Marie Miller, Chief  
Materials Security and Industrial Branch  
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Enclosure:  
NRC Form 591

cc:  
Stanley Yap, Radiation Safety Officer

M. Smith

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Current NRC regulations are included on the NRC's website at [www.nrc.gov](http://www.nrc.gov) ; select **Nuclear Materials; Medical, Academic, and Industrial Uses of Nuclear Material**; then **Regulations, Guidance, and Communications Page**. The current Enforcement Policy is included on the NRC's website at [www.nrc.gov](http://www.nrc.gov) ; select **About NRC, How We Regulate; Enforcement**; then **Enforcement Policy**. You may also obtain these documents by contacting the Government Printing Office (GPO) toll-free at 1-866-512-1800. The GPO is open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday (except Federal holidays).

No acknowledgment of this letter is required. Please contact Kathy Modes at (610) 337-5251, if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

**/RA/ Original Signed by:**

Marie Miller, Chief  
Materials Security and Industrial Branch  
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Enclosure:  
NRC Form 591

cc:  
Stanley Yap, Radiation Safety Officer

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