

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

January 25, 1991

Dr. Melvin H. Chalfen, M.D.
Commissioner
Department of Health and Hospitals
1493 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Dr. Chalfen:

This letter is in response to a request from Cambridge City Manager Robert Healy for information regarding the use and storage of nuclear material on the MIT campus.

Radioactive research is conducted at MIT in conjunction with the Center for Cancer Research, the Health Sciences and Technology Program, the Chemistry Department, the Biology Department, and other laboratories. Radioactive medical research at MIT has been helpful in exploring treatments for heart disease, leukemia, Alzheimer's disease, AIDS, Parkinson's disease, and many other physical disorders.

The use of radioactive materials at MIT is closely regulated through NRC licensure and well established MIT regulatory controls. An NRC research reactor license is issued to MIT for the operation of the 5 megawatt research reactor located on Albany Street. An NRC type A broad institutional license is issued to the Institute covering research at all other locations.

MIT assures proper oversight of all such materials by the establishment and support of a radiation protection program which is operated as a subdivision of the MIT Medical Department, and

operated as a subdivision of the MIT Medical Department, and independent of MIT research departments. The MIT Radiation Protection Office, which encompasses a staff of 27 people, is committed to the safe management of all sources of radiation used throughout MIT's research and education programs. This office is also the largest academic radiation protection office in the country.

The Radiation Protection Office, with a division permanently housed at the research reactor, is responsible for the radiation safety training of all MIT radiation workers, day-to-day monitoring the exposure levels of all radiation workers, surveying radiation and contamination levels in all relevant laboratories, and assuring the safety of the environment of MIT's laboratories and facilities. The Radiation Protection Office controls the purchase of all radioactive materials at MIT, tracks the use of that material, and manages the disposal of all radioactive waste generated in all MIT programs in which such materials are handled.

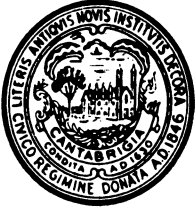
The Radiation Protection Office provides annual radiation protection and hazardous material preparedness training and instruction to the Cambridge Fire Department and fire departments from other municipalities

Enforcement of these regulatory programs is provided through the conduct of unannounced inspections provided by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission through their regional compliance office. Such inspections occur two or three times per year and involve complete program review and audits. All programs are managed and conducted as required in the license applications describing the details of all control programs and in compliance with United States Code Title 10. All license applications and inspection reports are public record.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ron Suduiko", with a stylized, flowing script.

Ronald P. Suduiko
Assistant to the President



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL 349-4300
FAX 349-4307

January 28, 1991

To The Honorable, The City Council:

With regard to Awaiting Report Item No. 17, relative to the storage of nuclear materials on the MIT Campus, please find attached a response from Ronald P. Suduiko, Assistant to the President of MIT.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mev
attachment

Agenda # 30

S-188

Response to Awaiting Report Item 17
regarding the storage of nuclear material
on the MIT Campus.

In City Council,

January 28, 1991

Placed on file