



Department of Energy
Germantown, MD 20874-1290

JUL 01 1997

EH-63 RF

Dr. Edward Kaplan
Radiological Sciences Division
Building 703M
Brookhaven National Laboratory
Upton, New York 11973

Dear Dr. Kaplan:

I wish to thank you for your participation in the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of International Health Programs (EH-63) recent inter-laboratory comparison to detect and measure plutonium-239 in artificial urine at a radioactivity range from 50 to 1500 attocuries. I am especially pleased that you were able to complete your analyses and return the results on schedule to Dr. Kenneth Inn at the National Institute of Science and Technology (NIST) for evaluation. Preliminary discussions with Dr. Inn suggest that the results, overall, are most interesting and encouraging. However, we all must await his final evaluation and report which will be available by September 1, 1997.

In the interim, it is necessary to do some preliminary planning for the FY98 distribution of program funds. Towards this end, I would like you to consider and advise me what it would cost per urine sample to perform the analysis and report the Pu-239 results, using the technology you employed in the recent inter-comparison, for approximately 150-200 urine samples, if they were provided to you in FY98. In addition, it is requested that you project the turn-around time needed to complete and report results if 75 urine samples were provided at one time. I need this information no later than July 30, 1997.

The DOE currently has no funding to sponsor either a workshop or further technological development at this time. However, both Dr. Inn and I feel that the results of the recent inter-comparison could have major impacts resulting in better characterization of the dose in occupational workers and others who have been exposed to Pu-239. Therefore, I would welcome any financial or resource assistance that your laboratory can provide towards sponsoring such a workshop or providing in-house funds to help further develop this technology.

Should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact either Neil Barss (301) 903-4024 or myself (301) 903-5728.

Sincerely,

R. Thomas Bell
Supervisor
Pacific Health Programs
Office of International
Health Programs

cc:

Dr. John Baum, BNL
Dr. Kenneth Inn, NIST



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Dr. Eric Wyse
MS P8-08
903 Battelle Boulevard
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Dr. Wyse:

I wish to thank you for your participation in the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of **International Health Programs (EH-63)** recent inter-laboratory comparison to detect and measure plutonium-239 in artificial urine at a radioactivity range from 50 to 1500 attocuries. I am especially pleased that you were able to complete your analyses and return the results on schedule to Dr. Kenneth Inn at the **National Institute of Science and Technology (NIST)** for evaluation. Preliminary discussions with Dr. Inn suggest that the results, overall, are most interesting and encouraging. However, we all must await his final evaluation and report which will be available by September 1, 1997.

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Sincerely,

R. Thomas Bell
Supervisor
Pacific Health Programs
Office of International
Health Programs

cc: Dr. Kenneth Inn, NIST



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JUL 01 1997

Dr. Dawn Lewis
Radiation Protection Policy and Programs. ESH-12
MS E546
Los Alamos National Laboratory
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

Dear Dr. Lewis:

I wish to thank you for your participation in the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of International Health Programs (EH-63) recent inter-laboratory comparison to detect and measure plutonium-239 in artificial urine at a radioactivity range from 50 to 1500 attocuries. I am especially pleased that you were able to complete your analyses and return the results on schedule to Dr. Kenneth Inn at the National Institute of Science and Technology (NIST) for evaluation. Preliminary discussions with Dr. Inn suggest that the results, overall, are most interesting and encouraging. However, we all must await his final evaluation and report which will be available by September 1, 1997.

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Sincerely,

R. Thomas Bell
Supervisor
Pacific Health Programs
Office of International
Health Programs

cc:
Dr. Peggy Gautier, LANL
Dr. Kenneth Inn, NIST



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