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MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 7, 2005
TO: Deans, Directors, and Department Heads
FROM: Leslie P. Tolbert, Vice President for Research, Graduate Studies, and
Economic Development

Re: Civil Penalties and Radiation Safety Compliance Issues

It is critical that all Principal Investigators be in full compliance regarding their use of ionizing and regulated nonionizing radiation. The Radiation Control Office (RCO) routinely provides training, advice, or information to the University relative to policies and procedures. However, when inspected by the Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency (ARRA), the University seldom avoids violations entirely. For several years, the ARRA has had full authority to assess civil penalties (dollars) for serious initial violations. Furthermore, assessment of these civil penalties is mandatory for repeat violations.

It remains the position of this Office that if a civil penalty is assessed as a result of actions or lack of actions by a specific Approval Holder, the investigator's department will pay the civil penalty. If such penalties are assessed, the fine will be deducted from the relevant college's indirect cost return.

I am also very concerned about the presence of non-employees in radiation-restricted areas, even during evenings and on weekends. This practice, especially as it relates to children, even with close supervision, is totally unacceptable. The only exceptions should be when visitors are participating in organized short-term tours coordinated with the Radiation Control Office or in various young scientist research programs where each individual is properly trained and supervised. I consider violations of this restriction to be intolerable.

This memorandum also provides me with the opportunity to reiterate that it is the University's policy that fines for unreturned radiation dosimeters be paid out of appropriate departmental (non-grant) funds. The \$25 per incident fine system has

dramatically improved timely dosimeter returns to the RCO, and thus has greatly improved compliance in this area.

Please call me if you have any questions, and make sure that all individuals impacted are aware of this memo.