U.S. Department of Labor

Occupational Safety and Health
Washington, D.C. 20210

Oklahoma City Area Office
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Oklahoma City, OK. 73102
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January 27, 2004

Mr. Ed Berkowitz
National Weather Service
3200 Marshall Ave.
Norman, OK. 73072

Mr. Berkowitz,

You have requested a final report letter for your management review; please accept this as that letter.

The purpose of this ATAR was to evaluate the NEXRAD radome structures for potential permit confined space classification. After review by two OSHA compliance officers it was determined that the radome does meet the definition of a permit-required confined space because it contains electrical, mechanical, physical, and potentially radiation hazards. The space could be declassified, if all main functions of the antenna could be de-energized via specific lock-out/tag-out procedures. Mr. John Ammon, of my staff, discussed with you the need to identify all sources of energy and the quantification of how much energy would be required to move the antenna. This information was mentioned in a previous memo sent via Richard Fairfax of the OSHA National office. Also, addressed during Mr. Ammon's visit was the need to discuss with the OSHA national or regional office regarding a possible variance for the ladder/stairway and the limited means of egress.

Thank you very much for allowing us to assist you with this safety and health issue. If you have any additional questions, please contact Carlos Reynolds at (405) 278-9560.

Sincerely,

James E. Brown, III
Area Director