

July 29, 2004

EA-04-135

Glen W. Grippen
Medical Center Director
Clement J. Zablocki Medical Center
5000 W. National Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53295

SUBJECT: NRC REVIEW OF REPORT OF LOST TRITIUM EXIT SIGNS

Dear Mr. Grippen:

This refers to your letter dated June 1, 2004, reporting the loss of four exit signs, each containing between 11.5 and 20 curies of tritium.

Based on your report, the NRC has determined that a violation of NRC requirements occurred concerning the improper transfer of byproduct material contained in four generally licensed tritium exit signs (10 CFR 31.5 (copy enclosed)). The failure to properly transfer these devices to persons holding a specific license pursuant to 10 CFR Parts 30 and 32 or from an Agreement State to receive the device is categorized in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedures for NRC Enforcement Actions," NUREG-1600, (Enforcement Policy) at Severity Level IV.

Since you identified the violation and implemented corrective action, this violation is being treated as a Non-Cited Violation (NCV), consistent with Section VI.A of the Enforcement Policy. If you contest the violation or significance of the NCV, you should provide a response within 30 days of the date of this letter, with the basis for your denial, to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Document Control Desk, Washington DC 20555-0001, with copies to the Regional Administrator, Region III, and the Director, Office of Enforcement, United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. The NRC has concluded that information regarding the reason for the violation, the corrective actions taken and planned to correct the violation and prevent recurrence is already adequately addressed on the docket in your report dated June 1, 2004. Therefore, you are not required to respond to this letter unless you wish to provide additional information. In that case, you should follow the instructions specified above.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosure, and your response, if you choose to provide one, will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the NRC's document system (ADAMS), accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To the extent possible, your response should

G. Grippen

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not include any personal privacy or proprietary information so that it can be made available to the Public without redaction.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John R. Madera. Chief
Materials Inspection Branch

Docket No. 99990003
General Licensee 10 CFR 31.5

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/encl: E. Lynn McGuire, Director
National Health Physics Program (115HP/NLR)
Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
2200 Fort Roots Drive
Little Rock, Arkansas 72114

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