UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION III
2443 WARRENVILLE ROAD, SUITE 210
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4352

May 25, 2006

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

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT (IR 030-34325/06-006 (DNMS)) DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Dear Mr. McGuire:

This refers to the inspection conducted on May 3-4, 2006, at the Department of Veterans Affairs, Medical Center, St. Louis, Missouri. The inspection was limited to a review of activities authorized under Permit No. 24-00144-05. The inspector conducted an exit briefing with the staff at the Medical Center at the completion of the inspection.

Within the program areas reviewed during this inspection, the inspector did not identify any violations of NRC requirements. Therefore, you are not required to respond to this letter.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be available electronically in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). The NRC's document system is accessible from the NRC Web site at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html.

We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this inspection.

Sincerely,

Patricia J. Pelke, Chief
Materials Licensing Branch

Docket No. 030-34325
License No. 03-23853-01VA
Permit No. 24-00144-05

Enclosure: NRC Form 591M

NRC FORM 591M PART 1 (10-2003) 10 CFR 2.201

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT AND COMPLIANCE INSPECTION

1. LICENSEE/LOCATION INSPECTED:	2. NRC/REGIONAL OFFICE
Veterans Affairs Medical Center 915 North Grand Boulevard St. Louis, Missouri 63125 REPORT 2006-006	REGION III US NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION 2443 WARRENVILLE ROAD, SUITE 210 LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532

3. DOCKET NUMBER(S)	4. LICENSEE NUMBER(S)	5. DATE(S) OF INSPECTION
030-34325	03-23853-01VA	May 3-4, 2006

LICENSEE:

The inspection was an examination of the activities conducted under your license as they relate to radiation safety and to compliance with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) rules and regulations and the conditions of your license. The inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observations by the inspector. The inspection findings are as follows:

[X] 1. Based on the inspection findings, no violations were identified.

[ ] 2. Previous violation(s) closed.

[ ] 3. The violation(s), specifically described to you by the inspector as non-cited violations, are not being cited because they were self-identified, non-repetitive, and corrective action was or is being taken, and the remaining criteria in the NRC Enforcement Policy, NUREG-1600, to exercise discretion, were satisfied.

_____ Non-Cited Violation(s) was/were discussed involving the following requirement(s) and Corrective Action(s):

[ ] 4. During this inspection certain of your activities, as described below and/or attached, were in violation of NRC requirements and are being cited. This form is a NOTICE OF VIOLATION, which may be subject to posting in accordance with 10 CFR 19.11.

(Violations and Corrective Actions)

Licensee's Statement of Corrective Actions for Item 4, above.

I hereby state that, within 30 days, the actions described by me to the inspector will be taken to correct the violations identified. This statement of corrective actions is made in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 2.201 (corrective steps already taken, corrective steps which will be taken, date when full compliance will be achieved). I understand that no further written response to NRC will be required, unless specifically requested.

Title	Printed Name	Signature	Date
LICENSEE'S REPRESENTATIVE			
NRC INSPECTOR	Geoffrey M. Warren	Geoffrey M. Warren	5/9/06

NRC FORM 591M PART 3
(10-2003)
10 CFR 2.201

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Docket File Information

SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT AND COMPLIANCE INSPECTION

1. LICENSEE	2. NRC/REGIONAL OFFICE
Veterans Affairs Medical Center, St. Louis REPORT NUMBER(S) 2006-006	**Region III**

3. DOCKET NUMBER(S)	4. LICENSE NUMBER(S)	5. DATE(S) OF INSPECTION
030-34325	03-23853-01VA	May 3-4, 2006

6. INSPECTION PROCEDURES USED	7. INSPECTION FOCUS AREAS
87134, 87126	03.01 - 03.08; 03.01 - 03.07

SUPPLEMENTAL INSPECTION INFORMATION

1. PROGRAM CODE(S)	2. PRIORITY	3. LICENSEE CONTACT	4. TELEPHONE NUMBER
02110	2	Larry Chandler, RSO	314-289-6344

[X] Main Office Inspection — Next Inspection Date: **N/A: MML permittee**

[X] Field Office VA Medical Center, Hwy. 67 North, Poplar Bluff, MO

[ ] Temporary Job Site

PROGRAM SCOPE

The inspector reviewed activities performed under VA MML Permit No. 24-00144-05.

This was a medical broadscope program that authorized radiopharmaceuticals and sealed sources for medical diagnosis and therapy. The permittee operated facilities in several states. Permitted activities were conducted only at the facilities indicated on the license. The following locations were visited during this inspection.

St. Louis VA Medical Center - John Cochran Division (915 N. Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO): This was a 350-bed hospital. The nuclear medicine facility was staffed with five full-time technologists who performed approximately 400 procedures monthly. Doses were prepared from a technetium-99m generator or received as unit doses from a licensed radiopharmacy. Permittee performed around two iodine-131 treatments monthly with the iodine-131 in capsule form. In addition, the permittee performed occasional radiopharmaceutical therapies using samarium-153. No brachytherapy procedures had been performed for over five years. While the permittee possessed a high-dose-rate (HDR) remote afterloader system, the sources had been removed and returned to the manufacturer. The permittee operated several research labs at this facility, two of which possessed licensed material at the time of the inspection. The labs used isotopes such as tritium, phosphorus-32, iodine-125, and iodine-131 as tracer materials in research.

John J. Pershing VA Medical Center (Hwy 67 North, Poplar Bluff, MO): This was a 60-bed hospital. The nuclear medicine facility was staffed with one technologist who performed approximately 280 procedures monthly. Doses were received as unit doses from a licensed radiopharmacy or prepared from bulk technetium. The licensee performed diagnostic studies using technetium-99m, xenon-133, and iodine-123 capsules.

Performance Observations

The inspector observed two diagnostic administrations of licensed material, including dose preparation and disposal, as well as generator milking and kit preparation. In addition, permittee personnel demonstrated dose calibrator constancy tests, survey meter daily checks, package receipt, and contamination surveys. The inspector found no concerns with these activities. The permittee explained procedures for radiopharmaceutical therapies and the inspector found no issues. The inspector reviewed written directives for these therapies and found no issues. Interviews with permittee staff indicated adequate knowledge of radiation safety principles and procedures. Radiation surveys indicated radiation levels consistent with licensee postings.

5/24/06