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
Veteran Affairs Health Care System REPORT NUMBER(S) 2006-009	USNRC Region IV

3. DOCKET NUMBER(S)	4. LICENSE NUMBER(S)	5. DATE(S) OF INSPECTION
030-34325	03-23853-01VA	July 31 - August 1, 2006

6. INSPECTION PROCEDURES USED	7. INSPECTION FOCUS AREAS
87131/87126	03.01.03.07

SUPPLEMENTAL INSPECTION INFORMATION

1. PROGRAM CODE(S)	2. PRIORITY	3. LICENSEE CONTACT	4. TELEPHONE NUMBER
2120	3	Carol Sherwood M.S.	818-891-7711

X Main Office Inspection — Next Inspection Date: _____

Field Office _____

Temporary Job Site _____

PROGRAM SCOPE

This was an unannounced inspection for VA permit 04-00181-04. The RSO is Carol Sherwood and the assistant RSO is Ron Nausbaum. VA-LA is large medical broad scope permittee of the VA master materials license.

The nuclear medicine program consists of 3 - 4 physicians (2 full time and 2 part time) and 8 technologists, including the chief technologist. The nuclear medicine department has six cameras. The camera rooms can be locked, and the hot lab has a cipher lock. Tc-99m is the primary isotope used in nuclear medicine, normally ordered in bulk form. However, the radiopharamacist orders one Tc-99m multi-Curie generator annually to train residents. The daily workload in nuclear medicine is usually 8 to 10 cases. The normal Tc-99m workload consists of 2-4 bone studies daily; 5 - 6 renal studies weekly, 2 MUGA scans weekly and 12 red cell mass studies yearly. No aerosols or xenon are used. VA-LA performs 25 - 30 I-131 hyperthyroid treatments per year, and 3 - 5 thyroid ablations per year. In-patient radioiodine therapy is infrequently performed, with the last occurring 2 - 3 years ago. VA-LA conducts approximately 2 cases of I-125 brachytherapy seed implants per month. Although three implants were scheduled in August 2006. Prior to use I-125 seeds are stored in a lead lined vault in a locked room located in radiation therapy. Access to this room is limited to the physicist and RSO.

The research program consists of about 30 labs using primarily H-3, C-14, P-32, and I-125. Usage of S-35 has decreased over the past few years. All labs are locked. VA-LA uses an internal permit process to approve each authorized user. Several labs were visited and interviews were conducted with authorized users, as well as technicians. All personnel knew proper procedures for ordering and receiving radioactive materials, demonstrated proper contamination survey techniques, and were familiar with spill procedures and cleanup actions. Interviews were conducted with security, housekeeping, nursing staff and research laboratory personnel. The staff were found to be knowledgeable regarding the radiation safety program and operations.

Radioactive material is ordered by the authorized users, but received and surveyed in nuclear medicine prior to being transferred to the respective departments. VA-LA does not receive after hour deliveries of radioactive material. VA-LA calibrates their survey instruments in-house on an annual basis. All survey instruments were found to calibrated. Personnel dosimetry records were reviewed. The highest dosimetry result in 2005 was to a nuclear medicine technologist who received a whole body dose of 485 mrem.

No violations were noted during this inspection.