

Docket File Information
SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT
AND COMPLIANCE INSPECTION

1. LICENSEE Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Boise, ID		2. NRC/REGIONAL OFFICE USNRC Region IV	
REPORT NUMBER(S) 2006-011			
3. DOCKET NUMBER(S) 030-34325	4. LICENSE NUMBER(S) 03-23853-01VA	5. DATE(S) OF INSPECTION August 31, 2006	
6. INSPECTION PROCEDURES USED 87131		7. INSPECTION FOCUS AREAS 03.01-03.07	

SUPPLEMENTAL INSPECTION INFORMATION

1. PROGRAM CODE(S) 2120	2. PRIORITY 3	3. LICENSEE CONTACT Ken Nute	4. TELEPHONE NUMBER 208 422-1330
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Main Office Inspection	Next Inspection Date: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Field Office _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Job Site _____	

PROGRAM SCOPE

This was an unannounced inspection for VA permit 11-18311-01. The RSO is Ken Nute; he is also the only nuclear medicine technologist. VA Boise is a medium size medical broad scope permittee of the VA master material license. Radiation safety is supported by the Radiation Safety Committee.

Technetium-99m is the primary used isotope in nuclear medicine. VA Boise uses a generator which is received on Saturdays and escorted to the hot lab by VA Police. The nuclear medicine workload is about 30 patients weekly. Xenon-133 is used rarely; room air clearance is checked. VA Boise treats about 3-4 patients per year with I-131 for hyperthyroid treatments. Nursing staff is trained in radiation safety annually with the RSO providing case specific training at the time of the therapy. There is no brachytherapy program.

The research program consists of 2 labs using primarily H-3 and P-32. Authorized users are approved by the radiation safety committee. The 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 knew spill cleanup actions and procedures. Radiation safety training is provided annually by the RSO staff.

Radioactive material for use in nuclear medicine and the research labs are ordered by the authorized users and delivered to nuclear medicine. All labs, hot lab, and camera rooms are key pad locked. Radioactive waste is disposed of via a commercial vendor; no shipments in past 3 years. Generators are returned to the manufacturer 2 or 3 times per year. Instrumentation is calibrated annually and all survey instruments were found to be calibrated at the appropriate frequency. Pacific Health Physics audits program quarterly.

No violations were noted during this inspection.

Wayne Tippett, Director
David Lee, Chief of Staff
Ken Nute, RSO, he reports to COS