



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

REGION III
2443 WARRENVILLE ROAD, SUITE 210
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4352

November 2, 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 030-34325/06-01 (DNMS))
MEDICAL CENTER, BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA**

Dear Mr. McGuire:

This refers to the inspection conducted on October 11, 2006, at the Department of Veterans Affairs, Medical Center, Birmingham, Alabama. The inspection was limited to a review of activities authorized under Permit No. 01-00643-02. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia J. Pelke".

Patricia J. Pelke, Chief
Materials Licensing Branch

Docket No. 030-34325
License No. 03-23853-01VA
Permit No. 01-00643-02

Enclosure:
NRC Form 591M

SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT AND COMPLIANCE INSPECTION

1. LICENSEE/LOCATION INSPECTED:
Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Birmingham, Alabama

REPORT 2006001

2. NRC/REGIONAL OFFICE
REGION III
US NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
2443 WARRENVILLE ROAD, SUITE 210
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532

3. DOCKET NUMBER(S)
030-34325

4. LICENSEE NUMBER(S)
03-23853-01VA

5. DATE(S) OF INSPECTION
October 11, 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:

- 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	Héctor Bermúdez		10/20/2006

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 Department of Veterans Affairs Medical REPORT NUMBER(S) 2006001		2. NRC/REGIONAL OFFICE Region III	
3. DOCKET NUMBER(S) 030-34325	4. LICENSE NUMBER(S) 03-23853-01VA	5. DATE(S) OF INSPECTION October 11, 2006	
6. INSPECTION PROCEDURES USED 87134	7. INSPECTION FOCUS AREAS All		

SUPPLEMENTAL INSPECTION INFORMATION

1. PROGRAM 2110	2. PRIORITY N/A	3. LICENSEE CONTACT Kathy Boyd	4. TELEPHONE NUMBER 205-933-8101, X-6610
<input type="checkbox"/> Main Office Inspection		Next Inspection Date: <u>N/A</u>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Field Office <u>Birmingham, Alabama</u>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Job Site _____			

PROGRAM SCOPE

This was a routine, unannounced inspection.

This is a medical use permittee of broad scope with an active RSC that meets quarterly. Although permitted for, there is no human or in-vitro research, no active labs, and no inventory of CHIPS materials on hand. There have been no in-patient therapies in at least one year. The permittee was most recently inspected by the NHPP last April with no findings. NHPP inspects every two years and the permittee assesses its performance on a quarterly basis.

Nuclear Medicine: The permittee treats approximately 25 patients per day using 5 technologists and 5 cameras (including 2 PET cameras). There are four authorized users. The permittee performs approximately 2-3 procedures per month that require written directives, all involving I-131 in the past two years. The licensee uses mostly unit doses from a radiopharmacy but occasionally uses bulk Tc-99m.

Brachytherapy: The brachytherapy program consists of prostate implants and eye plaques. This year the licensee performed one prostate implant in May and two in January; the program is in transition and normally the licensee would perform 1-2 implants per month. The licensee performs approximately one eye plaque treatment per year. There are seven authorized users in the department.