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

January 5, 2007

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 030-34325/06-05(DNMS)
MEDICAL CENTER, CHICAGO, ILLINIOS

Dear Mr. McGuire:

This refers to the inspection conducted on December 19, 2006, at the Department of Veterans Affairs, Medical Center, Chicago, Illinois. The inspection was limited to a review of activities authorized under Permit No. 12-02642-06. 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,

/RA/

Patricia J. Pelke, Chief
Materials Licensing Branch

Docket No. 030-34325
License No. 03-23853-01VA
Permit No. 12-02642-06

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
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center **820 South Damen Avenue** **Chicago, IL 60612-3728** REPORT 2006-005	**U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission** **Region III** **2443 Warrenville Road** **Lisle, Illinois 60532-4351**

3. DOCKET NUMBER(S)	4. LICENSEE NUMBER(S)	5. DATE(S) OF INSPECTION
030-34325	**03-23853-01VA**	**December 19, 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	**Sarah R. Bakhsh**		**12/19/06**

kw 1/5

KW for 1/5 pp

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
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center, Chicago, IL REPORT **2006-005**	**Region III** **2443 Warrenville Road** **Lisle, IL 60532**

3. DOCKET NUMBER(S)	4. LICENSE NUMBER(S)	5. DATE(S) OF INSPECTION
030-34325	**03-23853-01VA**	**December 19, 2006**

6. INSPECTION PROCEDURES	7. INSPECTION FOCUS AREAS
87131, 83124, 87134	**03.01-03.07**

SUPPLEMENTAL INSPECTION INFORMATION

1. PROGRAM	2. PRIORITY	3. LICENSEE CONTACT	4. TELEPHONE NUMBER
02110/03610	2	**David Derenzo, RSO**	**(312) 569-6596**

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

[X] Field — Jesse Brown VA and Lakeside (Huron st) Med Center in Chicago, IL

[ ] Temporary Job Site

PROGRAM SCOPE

This was an inspection of the VA MML permitee located in Chicago, Illinois (permit number 12-02642-06). The permitee was a hospital with a medical broadscope program authorized to conduct medical diagnosis, therapy, and research activities. IThe licensee was in the process of consolidating the Jesse Brown and Lakeside facilities. All labs using radioactive materials at Lakeside had been decommissioned at the time of the inspection.

The permitee was a 200 bed hospital and the scope of the inspection included radioactive material use in research and in nuclear medicine, storage of waste and sealed sources at the Jesse Brown facility, and confirmation of the final radiation surveys of the decommissioned laboratories and waste storage at the Lakeside facility.

The permitee employed five full time nuclear medicine technologists and performed approximately 500 diagnostic procedures monthly using unit doses of technetium-99m and thallium-201 mostly for cardiac imaging. The permitee performed approximately 15 therapeutic procedures annually using unit doses of iodine-131 (capsules) and others like phosphorus-32, indium-111, strontium-89, and chromium-51 occasionally. The unit doses were delivered by local pharmacies a couple times daily.

The permitee had approximately 20 research laboratories in which researchers used mostly sodium-22, tritium, sulfur-35, carbon-14, phosphorus 32, and iodine 125. All waste was segregated as long lived waste, which was shipped to a waste company 1-2 times yearly and short lived waste, which was held for decay-in-storage. The permitee did not perform any brachytherapy at its facility and there had been no animal research for the past year.

During the inspection, the inspector observed: (1) adequate security of the licensed material in both nuclear medicine and the research laboratories; (2) administration of the radioactive material by a technologist; (3) verification of sealed sources in storage and permitee inventory; (4) adequate posting of areas; (5) package receipt and return surveys in nuclear medicine; (6) responses to emergency scenarios; (7) survey meter use and calibration; (8) daily and weekly contamination surveys; (9) dose calibrator constancy checks. The inspector conducted interviews of select researchers and technologists regarding security, authorized use of material, and training and found them to be knowledgeable regarding the various aspects of the program. The inspector performed independent and confirmatory surveys of the hot lab and research laboratories. The inspector reviewed radiation safety committee meeting minutes and incident reports and other select records including written directives for therapeutic administrations, dosimetry reports, leak test reports, Lakeside facility close out surveys, quarterly audits. A review of these documents, along with interviews of technical staff indicated adequate program oversight.

No violations of NRC requirements were identified.