



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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

August 25, 2008

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 030-34325/08-06(DNMS) (FORM 591M PART 1)
MEDICAL CENTER, WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA**

Dear Mr. McGuire:

This refers to the inspection conducted on July 29, 2008, at the Department of Veterans Affairs, Medical Center, West Palm Beach, Florida. The inspection was limited to a review of activities authorized under Permit No. 09-25328-01. 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 cursive script, appearing to read "Patricia J. Pelke".

For Patricia J. Pelke, Chief
Materials Licensing Branch

Docket No. 030-34325
License No. 03-23853-01VA
Permit No. 09-25328-01

Enclosure:
Inspection Report 030-34325/08-06(DNMS) (Form 591M Part 1)

Letter to E. Lynn McGuire from Patricia Pelke dated 8/25/2008

DISTRIBUTION:

S. Courtemanche, RI
C. Ariano, RIII

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DATE	08/25/08		08/25/08					

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SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT AND COMPLIANCE INSPECTION

1. LICENSEE/LOCATION INSPECTED: VA Medical Center 7305 North Military Trail West Palm Beach, FL 33410-6400		2. NRC/REGIONAL OFFICE U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Region I, 475 Allendale Road King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406-1415	
REPORT Nos 03034325/2008-006			
3. DOCKET NUMBER(S) 03034325	4. LICENSE NUMBER(S) 03-23853-01VA	5. DATE(S) OF INSPECTION July 29, 2008	

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.

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	Steven R. Courtemanche	<i>Steven R. Courtemanche</i>	8/11/2008

Initial	Announced	X	Unannounced	X	Routine	Special
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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 VA Medical Center, 7305 North Military Trail West Palm Beach, Florida 33412-6400		2. NRC/REGIONAL OFFICE U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Region I, 475 Allendale Road King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406-1415	
REPORT NOS 03034325/2008-006			
3. DOCKET NUMBER(S) 03034325	4. LICENSE NUMBER(S) 03-23853-01VA	5. DATE(S) OF INSPECTION July 29, 2008	
6. INSPECTION PROCEDURES USED 87134	7. INSPECTION FOCUS AREAS 03.01 – 03.11	8. INSPECTOR Steven R. Courtemanche	

SUPPLEMENTAL INSPECTION INFORMATION

1. PROGRAM CODE(S) 02120/0000	2. PRIORITY 3	3. LICENSEE CONTACT J. Anandarao, Radiation Safety Officer	4. TELEPHONE NUMBER 561-422-6959
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Main Office Inspection Next Inspection Date: July 2011

Field Office _____

Temporary Job Site Inspection _____

PROGRAM SCOPE

The VA Medical Center, West Palm Beach, Florida conducts licensed activities under a VHA limited-scope medical use permit. Licensed activities are generally conducted from 6:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Monday thru Fridays with some work conducted during weekends. Amendments to the license authorized the transportation of licensed material in a mobile medical van for use at the VA Medical Center, Miami, Florida. Due to changes in the Miami facilities program, this authorization will not be used. Otherwise, there have been no changes in the licensee's program scope. There are 20 – 26 diagnostic procedures performed in the Nuclear Medicine Department with another 7 or 8 performed in the mobile Van (PET facility). There have been 15 procedures performed requiring written directives with only one requiring the patient to be kept at the hospital. Radioactive waste from the patient is being kept for decay-in-storage in a shed outside the main hospital facility. The licensee has two cameras equipped with patient attenuation devices (two sources each). The licensee has not used its authorization for Yttrium 90. There are 12 Authorized Users (AU) listed on the license and all have continuing privileges at the facility. Only AU authorized for 35.300 signed Written Directives. The Radiation Safety Officer is active in the program performing audits and reporting the results to the Radiation Safety Committee (RSC). The RSC meets quarterly with appropriate membership and discusses relevant topics. Radiation dose rate level measurements were made in the Nuclear Medicine Department and of radioactive waste storage areas. All measurements were within regulatory limits and were in agreement with the licensee's measurements. (Ludlum 14C equipped with a pancake probe calibrated February 26, 2008, Serial Number 87611).

The licensee's corrective and preventive actions for two items identified during the VHA April 2008 inspection were reviewed. Training was provided to pertinent personnel regarding survey techniques and notification requirements. Personnel interviewed appeared to have a working knowledge of how to survey packages and areas for contamination as well as the reporting requirements. NMED Item No. 080172 may be closed and NHPP may make any appropriate actions pertaining to NRC Event No. 44076.

SUNSI Review
Completed By:

/ RA /
Steven R. Courtemanche

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