



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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

October 9, 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 030-34325/08-14(DNMS) (FORM 591M PART 1)
MEDICAL CENTER, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH**

Dear Mr. McGuire:

This refers to the inspection conducted on September 16, 2008, at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Salt Lake City, Utah. The inspection was limited to a review of activities authorized under Permit No. 43-03299-01. 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 that reads "Patricia J. Pelke".

Patricia J. Pelke, Chief
Materials Licensing Branch

Docket No. 030-34325
License No. 03-23853-01VA
Permit No. 43-03299-01

Enclosure:
Inspection Report 030-34325/08-14(DNMS) (Form 591M Part 1)

SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT AND COMPLIANCE INSPECTION

1. LICENSEE/LOCATION INSPECTED:

VA Salt Lake City Health Care System
 500 Foothill Drive
 Salt Lake City, Utah 84148

2. NRC/REGIONAL OFFICE

USNRC Region IV
612 East Lamar Blvd., Suite 400
Arlington, Texas 76011-4125

REPORT NUMBER(S) **2008-014**

3. DOCKET NUMBER(S)

030-34325

4. LICENSEE NUMBER(S)

03-23853-01VA;(43-03299-01)

5. DATE(S) OF INSPECTION

09/16 /08

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 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 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	Lawrence Donovan	<i>Lawrence Donovan</i>	10/1/08

(1/2008 edited by RIV)
10 CFR 2.201

Docket File Information
SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT AND COMPLIANCE INSPECTION



1. LICENSEE VA Salt Lake City Health Care System REPORT NUMBER(S) 2008-014		2. NRC/REGIONAL OFFICE USNRC Region IV		
3. DOCKET NUMBER(S) 030-34325	4. LICENSE NUMBER(S) 03-23853-01VA; (43-03299-01)	5. DATE(S) OF INSPECTION 09/16/08		
6. INSPECTION PROCEDURES USED 87134	7. INSPECTION FOCUS AREAS 02.01-02.08			

SUPPLEMENTAL INSPECTION INFORMATION

1. PROGRAM CODE(S) 02110/03610	2. PRIORITY 2/3	3. LICENSEE CONTACT Robert J. Hoffman, RSO	4. TELEPHONE NUMBER (801) 584-1266
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Main Office Inspection
 Field Office Inspection
 Temporary Job Site Inspection

Next Inspection Date: _____

PROGRAM SCOPE

This was an unannounced inspection of this VA permittee, located in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Persons contacted: Craig Ray, CNMT; Robert Hoffman, RSO; James Ruble, VA Police; Daniel Priestly, M.D., Medical Director, Radiology; Mike Lemmert, Chief Engineer; Mark Huff, Engineer; Donna Walsh, Director of Nursing; Rima Nelson, acting Facility Manager; Robin Korogi, Associate Director.

The nuclear medicine department uses unit doses only and performs ~90% cardiac studies using Tc-99m and ~one I-125 thyroid ablation procedure per year. No generators are used. The licensee performs nuclear medicine procedures on equal number of in and outpatients. There are no RAM seed implants nor brachytherapy done at this facility. The licensee possesses three RAM flood sources stored in the nuclear medicine hot lab.

No active research is being conducted at this facility and has not been active during the past year. The licensee is working toward decommissioning the research labs and possibly removing the atomic numbers 3-83 authorization replacing authorizations by individual line item requests.

The nuclear medicine department has a quarterly internal audit through the RSC, and a separate quarterly external audit by their consultant from Stanford. There are 2 full-time nuclear medicine technologists. A technician injecting a patient was observed and found to implement good radiation safety practices.

Supervising nursing staff involved with in-patient thyroid ablation care were interviewed to confirm knowledge of licensee's radiation safety handling procedures for handling these cases. The Housekeeping Director was interviewed and displayed a knowledge of the hospitals radiation safety program as applicable to his staff.

Quarterly leak tests and inventories are performed in-house, area wipes are performed weekly, and radiation surveys are performed daily in use areas.

The licensee reports no incidents have occurred since the previous routine inspection.

VA Police department was visited, with an interview with a VA Police Lieutenant on radiation safety training, their role in RAM security for the facility. It was recommended that the police training officer coordinate training activities with the RSO.

No violations were noted.