NRC FORM 591M PART 1
(10-2003) 10 CFR 2.201

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

S2009-0AFETY INSPECTION REPORT AND COMPLIANCE INSPECTION

1. LICENSEE/LOCATION INSPECTED:	2. NRC/REGIONAL OFFICE
TestAmerica Laboratories – St. Louis 13715 Rider Trail North St. Louis, MO 63045 REPORT NUMBER(S) 2009-01	**Region III** **U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission** **2443 Warrenville Road, Suite 210** **Lisle, Illinois 60532-4351**

3. DOCKET NUMBER(S)	4. LICENSEE NUMBER(S)	5. DATE(S) OF INSPECTION
030-29601	24-24817-01	April 1, 2009

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	Terry Romanko, Technical Director		
NRC INSPECTOR	Kevin G. Null	Kevin G. Null	May 1, 2009

KGN

NRC FORM 591M PART 3
(10-2003) 10 CFR 2.201

Docket File Information

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT AND COMPLIANCE INSPECTION

1. LICENSEE	2. NRC/REGIONAL OFFICE
TestAmerica Laboratories – St. Louis REPORT NUMBER(S) 2009-01	**NRC Region III** **2443 Warrenville Road, Suite 210** **Lisle, Illinois 60532-4351**

3. DOCKET NUMBER(S)	4. LICENSE NUMBER(S)	5. DATE(S) OF INSPECTION
030-29601	24-24817-01	April 1, 2009 through May 1, 2009

6. INSPECTION PROCEDURES USED	7. INSPECTION FOCUS AREAS
87126	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7

SUPPLEMENTAL INSPECTION INFORMATION

1. PROGRAM CODE(S)	2. PRIORITY	3. LICENSEE CONTACT	4. TELEPHONE NUMBER
22110	3	Terry Romanko	(314) 298-8566

[X] Main Office Inspection — Next Inspection Date: April 1, 2012

[ ] Field Office

[ ] Temporary Job Site Inspection

PROGRAM SCOPE

This inspection was conducted on April 1, 2009, with continued in-office review through May 1, 2009. The in-office review was of the results of Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) analysis of smears (received on April 28, 2009) for contamination taken by the inspector during the April 1 on-site inspection activities.

TestAmerica Laboratories in a small environmental testing laboratory that provides analysis of liquid and solid environmental samples for their clients. Fifty percent of their client base is government. The remaining 50 percent is commercial-based. In addition to analyzing samples for radionuclides, the licensee also tests environmental samples for the presence of pesticides, herbicides, PCB's, etc. The license authorizes a number of radionuclides in the event that TestAmerica receives samples from clients that contain radioactive materials. Other materials authorized on the license are for the preparation and use of standards that are needed in the conduct of radiochemical analysis.

There are currently two authorized users on the license. One has 10 years experience and the other 20 years of experience. Working under supervision of these two authorized users are up to 40 trained technicians and laboratory personnel. Currently there are 40 people who are badged with Luxel whole body dosimeters. Results of dosimetry for 2008 – present were all less than 10 millirem per quarter per badged employee.

Performance Observations

The inspector toured the laboratory spaces where licensed material is used, and interviewed one authorized user and a random selection of staff and research workers. Each appeared knowledgeable in radiation safety and isotope handling techniques. The inspector observed staff handling material, wearing appropriate protective clothing, and conducting area and personnel surveys for contamination.

Laboratory space where licensed material is used is clearly marked. Each area has a dedicated survey meter coupled to a Ludlum 44-9 pancake probed for staff to survey hands and feet before they leave the area. In addition, the licensee utilizes 3 meters coupled to zinc sulfide (ZnS) probes for the detection of alpha emitters. These instruments are used primarily for the detection of isotopes of plutonium. The licensee periodically receives 5 milliliter ampoules of plutonium. Smaller aliquots are taken from these ampoules to make calibration and reference sources to be used in the laboratories. The inspector conducted independent area surveys using a Thermo Electron Corp. Model 527 ZnS probe coupled to a Thermo Electron Corp. Model Electra 1B meter, last calibrated in October 2008. Laboratory areas where isotopes of plutonium were stored and used were scanned with the ZnS probe. Nothing greater than background, i.e., 0 – 3 counts per minute (cpm), was identified.

The NRC inspector also collected seven wipe samples and sent these samples to the NRC's contract laboratory, ORISE, for analysis. The wipe test samples were analyzed for gross alpha, beta, and gamma radionuclides. The alpha and beta analyses were below 5 and 20 disintegrations per minute per centimeter square (dpm/cpm^2), respectively. These levels were below the licensee's trigger levels for decontamination specified in their license, i.e., 50 dpm for alpha radionuclides and 200 dpm for beta radionuclides. There were no gamma-emitting radionuclides identified on the smears.

No violations were identified.