



January 22, 2010

Docket No. 03036434

License No. 20-30847-01

Colonel Kevin N. Keenan
Commander
Department of the Army
U.S. Army Soldier Research Institute of Environmental Medicine (USARIEM)
Building 42
Kansas Street
Natick, MA 01760

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 03036434/2010001, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, U.S. ARMY SOLDIER RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE (USARIEM), NATICK, MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Colonel Keenan:

On January 7, 2010, Mr. Steven Courtemanche of this office conducted a safety inspection at the above address of activities authorized by the above listed NRC license. The inspection was an examination of your licensed activities as they relate to radiation safety and to compliance with the Commission's regulations and the license conditions. The inspection consisted of observations by the inspector, interviews with personnel, and a selective examination of representative records. The findings of the inspection were discussed with you at the conclusion of the inspection.

Within the scope of this inspection, no violations were identified; however, during the course of the inspection, a weakness in the program involving the transfer of historical knowledge and information from the previous Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) to the current RSO was identified. Specifically, during an office transition in 2009, records pertaining to the NRC-licensed radiation safety program were boxed for storage and the previous RSO took medical leave. The current RSO was unable to contact the previous RSO to obtain information pertaining to the program or to access the paper records and computer files were not accessible because they were coded to an electronic key in the possession of the previous RSO. The inspector was only able to review program records generated by the current RSO since October 2009.

It is our understanding that you have initiated the following actions to enhance your radiation safety program: (1) you named a new RSO for the license in October 2009 to replace the previous RSO who is on medical leave; (2) you will work with the previous RSO, upon his return from medical leave, so that a proper transition of all program records occurs within one month of his return; (3) you are training the Safety Manager to take over the duties of the RSO as a full-time commitment; and (4) the current RSO will assist the Safety Manager and act as his alternate when the Safety Manager assumes the position of RSO. If our understanding of your actions differs from your understanding, please inform us in writing. Otherwise, no response is required to this letter.

Current NRC regulations are included on the NRC's website at www.nrc.gov; select **Nuclear**

K. Keenan

2

Materials; Medical, Academic, and Industrial Uses of Nuclear Material; then Regulations, Guidance, and Communications. The current NRC Enforcement Policy is included on the NRC's website at www.nrc.gov; select **About NRC; How We Regulate; Enforcement; then Enforcement Policy.** You may also obtain these documents by contacting the Government Printing Office (GPO) toll-free at 1-866-512-1800. The GPO is open from 7:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday (except Federal holidays).

Please contact Mr. Courtemanche at 610-337-5075 if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Original signed by James P. Dwyer

James P. Dwyer, Chief
Commercial and R&D Branch
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

cc:
Michael Blaha, Radiation Safety Officer
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

K. Keenan

2

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James P. Dwyer, Chief
Commercial and R&D Branch
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

cc:
Michael Blaha, Radiation Safety Officer
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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