

April 19, 2011

Mr. Gary Williams, Director
National Health Physics Program (115 HP/NLR)
Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
2200 Fort Roots Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72114

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF VIOLATION DATED MARCH 23, 2011

Dear Mr. Williams:

The purpose of this letter is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated April 4, 2011, in response to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) letter dated March 24, 2011, which transmitted a Notice of Violation (Notice) and three concerns as a result of our inspection at the VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System (VASNHCS). The VASNHCS is a permittee under the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) master material license (MML). Your response included a memorandum dated April 1, 2011, from the VASNHCS which describes the corrective actions that they have taken or plan to take to address the violation. We have reviewed the corrective actions to address the violation, which appear to be adequate, and have no further questions at this time.

In addition to the violation, the memorandum from the VASNHCS also addressed the concerns that were described in our NRC Inspection Report No. 030-34325/11-16(DNMS). The report identified three concerns that involved: 1) the status of the prostate brachytherapy program; 2) the storage of iodine-125 seeds for decay; and 3) medical event training. We reviewed the information provided by the VASNHCS in response to the concerns and have no further questions. The actions that the VASNHCS has taken and planned to address the violation and concerns will be examined during a future inspection.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

G. Williams

-2-

If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Null at (630) 829-9854.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Patricia J. Pelke, Chief
Materials Licensing Branch

Docket No. 030-34325
License No. 03-23853-01VA
Permit No. 27-15192-01

G. Williams

-2-

If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Null at (630) 829-9854.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Patricia J. Pelke, Chief
Materials Licensing Branch

Docket No. 030-34325
License No. 03-23853-01VA
Permit No. 27-15192-01

Distribution:
Cynthia Pederson
Patrick Loudon
Steven Orth
Carole Ariano
Paul Pelke
Patricia Buckley
Tammy Tomczak

*See previous concurrence

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\DNMS\Work in progress\LTR - VA Sierra Nevada.docx

Publicly Available Non-Publicly Available Sensitive Non-Sensitive

To receive a copy of this document, indicate in the concurrence box "C" = Copy without attach/encl "E" = Copy with attach/encl "N" = No copy

OFFICE	RIII DNMS	C	RIII DNMS	C	RIII DNMS		RIII DNMS	
NAME	KGNnull:rj PJP for		PJPelke PJP					
DATE	04/19/2011		04/19/2011					

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY