



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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

April 4, 2012

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: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 030-34325/12-007(DNMS) – NORTHERN  
ARIZONA VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, PRESCOTT, ARIZONA**

Dear Mr. Williams:

On March 21, 2012, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) conducted a routine inspection at the Northern VA Health Care System, Prescott, Arizona. The inspection was limited to a review of activities authorized under Permit Number 02-12726-01. The inspector conducted an exit briefing with the staff at the Medical Center at the completion of the inspection.

The inspection was an examination of activities conducted under the Permit as they relate to radiation safety and to compliance with the Commission's rules and regulations. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, independent measurements, and observation of activities in progress. Within the scope of the inspection no violations of NRC requirements were identified; therefore, no response to this letter or the enclosed NRC Form 591M is required.

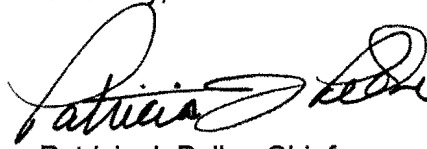
In accordance with Title 10 Code of Federal Regulations 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS),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

G. Williams

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Should you have any questions concerning these inspections or enclosed reports, please contact Kevin Null of my staff at 630-829-9854.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia J. Pelke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a distinct "Pelke" at the end.

Patricia J. Pelke, Chief  
Materials Licensing Branch  
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Docket No. 030-34325  
License No. 03-23853-01VA  
Permit No. 02-12726-01

Enclosure:  
Inspection Report 030-34325/12-007(DNMS)

G. Williams

-2-

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Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Patricia J. Pelke, Chief  
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Enclosure:  
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\*See previous concurrence

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\DNMS\Work in progress\VA Inspection Reports\IR- VAmmlPRESCOTTreport032012(REGIONIV).doc

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**Docket File Information**  
**SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT AND COMPLIANCE INSPECTION**

<b>1. LICENSEE/LOCATION INSPECTED:</b>  Department of Veterans Affairs Under Secretary for Health Washington, D.C. Location: Prescott, Arizona  REPORT NUMBER(S) 12-007	<b>2. NRC/REGIONAL OFFICE</b>  Region III U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 2443 Warrenville Road, Suite 210 Lisle, IL 60532-4352
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<b>3. DOCKET NUMBER(S)</b> 030-34325	<b>4. LICENSE NUMBER(S)</b> 03-23853-01VA	<b>5. DATE(S) OF INSPECTION</b> 03/21/2012
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<b>6. INSPECTION PROCEDURES USED</b> IP 87130	<b>7. INSPECTION FOCUS AREAS</b> All
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**SUPPLEMENTAL INSPECTION INFORMATION**

<b>1. PROGRAM CODE(S)</b> 02120	<b>2. PRIORITY</b> 3	<b>3. LICENSEE CONTACT</b> Gary Williams	<b>4. TELEPHONE NUMBER</b> (501) 257-1573
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Main Office Inspection                      Next Inspection Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Field Office Inspection    Northern Arizona VA Health Care System \_\_\_\_\_

Temporary Job Site Inspection \_\_\_\_\_

**PROGRAM SCOPE**

This permittee is licensed for 10 CFR 35.100, 10 CFR 35.200, and 10 CFR 31.11 uses under VA Permit Number 02-12726-01 (docket 030-01210). The permittee has one certified nuclear medicine technologist and one authorized user/radiation safety officer on site. The facility has one hot laboratory, two gamma cameras and all calibration flood sources are authorized under 10 CFR 35.65. The facility receives Tc99m bulk dosages and unit dosages from two commercial radiopharmacies. No Mo99/Tc99m generators, PET material, Xenon 133 or material in 10 CFR 31.11 are currently being used. Diagnostic studies performed during the review period were bone scans, heart scans, and whole body scans. Iodine-123 in capsule form is used to performed thyroid uptakes. Between 10 to 15 diagnostic studies are typically performed in a month. A medical physics consultant provides services to the permittee several times per year that includes performing wipe tests for sealed sources, records review, inventory of permitted material, radiation safety audits, training, and instrument calibration.

No studies were being performed the day of the inspection since the technologist was conducting radiation safety refresher training for ancillary staff and nurses. The inspector interviewed the technologist and the authorized user/radiation safety officer and both individuals demonstrated knowledge of operating and emergency procedures, and radiation safety requirements. Dose calibrator tests and frequency, leak test results and frequency, calibration of survey meters and frequency, area surveys and wipe tests, radiation safety training, internal audits, and dosimetry records were reviewed and found to be adequate. No whole body or ring badge overexposures were identified. Ambient radiation surveys were performed to confirm that areas where radioactive material was used or stored was less than two millirem in any hour. Security of radioactive material was adequate and in compliance with 10 CFR 20.1801 and 10 CFR 20.1802 requirements, and posting of restricted areas were adequate. The inspector determined that the permittee reviews the activities performed by the contractor and follows up on the contractor's recommendations regarding the licensee's radiation safety program. The permittee was in possession of a generally licensed device, a Niton Analyzer containing 40 millicuries of cadmium-109. The inspector verified that the device had the appropriate general license label, that it was secured, and that leak test results were negative for removable contamination.

No violations were identified during this inspection.

