



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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

June 13, 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 030-34325/12-018(DNMS) – VA CENTRAL IOWA  
HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, DES MOINES, IOWA**

Dear Mr. Williams:

On May 16, 2012, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) conducted a routine inspection at VA Central Iowa Health Care System, Des Moines, Iowa. The inspection was limited to a review of activities authorized under Permit Number 14-03523-01. The inspector conducted an exit briefing with the staff at the facility 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 (CFR) 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

-2-

Should you have any questions concerning this inspection or the enclosed report, 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 "J".

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

Docket No. 030-34325  
License No. 03-23853-01VA  
Permit No. 14-03523-01

Enclosure:  
Inspection Report No. 030-34325/12-018(DNMS)

G. Williams

-2-

Should you have any questions concerning this inspection or the enclosed report, please contact Kevin Null of my staff at 630-829-9854.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

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

Docket No. 030-34325  
License No. 03-23853-01VA  
Permit No. 14-03523-01

Enclosure:  
Inspection Report No. 030-34325/12-018(DNMS)

\*See previous concurrence

**ADAMS Accession Number:**

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\DNMS\Work in progress\VA Inspection Reports\IR - VAm\IDESMOINESreport062012(REGIONIII).doc

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	RIII DNMS	RIII DNMS	RIII
NAME	RXHays: jm RPH	KGNull KGN	PJPelke PJP	
DATE	06/13/12	06/12/12	06/13/12	

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

### SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT AND COMPLIANCE INSPECTION

1. LICENSEE/LOCATION INSPECTED:

Department of Veterans Affairs  
Under Secretary for Health  
Washington, D.C.  
Location: Des Moines, Iowa

REPORT NUMBER(S) 12-018

2. NRC/REGIONAL OFFICE

Region III  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
2443 Warrenville Road, Suite 210  
Lisle, IL 60532-4352

3. DOCKET NUMBER(S)

030-34325

4. LICENSE NUMBER(S)

03-23853-01VA

5. DATE(S) OF INSPECTION

May 16, 2012

#### 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:

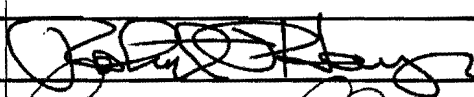
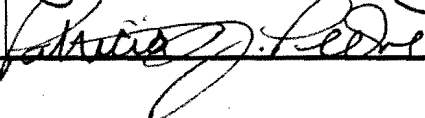
- 1. Based on the inspection findings, no violations were identified.
- 2. Previous violation(s) closed.
- 3. The violation(s), specifically described to you by the inspector as non-cited violations, are not being cited because they were self-identified, non-repetitive, and corrective action was or is being taken, and the remaining criteria in the NRC Enforcement Policy, to exercise discretion, were satisfied.

\_\_\_\_\_ Non-cited violation(s) were discussed involving the following requirement(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 in accordance with NRC Enforcement Policy. This form is a NOTICE OF VIOLATION, which may be subject to posting in accordance with 10 CFR 19.11.  
(Violations and Corrective Actions)

#### Statement of Corrective Actions

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	Robert P. Hays		6/13/12
BRANCH CHIEF	Patricia J. Pelke		6/13/12

Docket File Information

SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT AND COMPLIANCE INSPECTION

1. LICENSEE/LOCATION INSPECTED: Department of Veterans Affairs Under Secretary for Health Washington, D.C. Location: Des Moines, Iowa  REPORT NUMBER(S) 12-018	2. NRC/REGIONAL OFFICE Region III U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 2443 Warrenville Road, Suite 210 Lisle, IL 60532-4352
--	---

3. DOCKET NUMBER(S) 030-34325	4. LICENSE NUMBER(S) 03-23853-01VA	5. DATE(S) OF INSPECTION May 16, 2012
----------------------------------	---------------------------------------	--

6. INSPECTION PROCEDURES USED 87131	7. INSPECTION FOCUS AREAS 03.01-03.07
--	--

SUPPLEMENTAL INSPECTION INFORMATION

1. PROGRAM CODE(S) 2120	2. PRIORITY	3. LICENSEE CONTACT Gary E. Williams, Director	4. TELEPHONE NUMBER (501) 257-1572
----------------------------	-------------	---	---------------------------------------

Main Office Inspection                      Next Inspection Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Field Office Inspection    VA Central Iowa Health Care System \_\_\_\_\_

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

PROGRAM SCOPE

The Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC) is authorized under a Permit Number 14-03523-01 for limited scope medical use as authorized by NRC License No. 03-23853-01 VA. The VAMC was authorized by the permit to use any byproduct material for any patient study or therapy permitted by Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 35.100, 35.200, 35.300, 35.500 and 31.11 as prepackaged kits at the location specified on the permit. The nuclear medicine department was staffed with two full-time nuclear medicine technologists (NMTs) and one part-time NMT. The chief NMT serves as the Radiation Safety Officer. The NMTs administered an average of 5-7 diagnostic studies per day with the majority being cardiac studies. No PET isotopes, 10 CFR 35.500, or 10 CFR 31.11 are currently being used. About 20 patients are treated with iodine-131 annually. The inspector reviewed the written directives for calendar years 2011 and 2012 and found them to contain all of the required information. The nuclear medicine department receives only unit doses as ordered from a local nuclear pharmacy. No weekend or on call studies are ordered by the VAMC. All waste was held for decay-in-storage.

Performance Observations

During the inspection, the permittee's NMTs, demonstrated/discussed: (1) survey meter use and calibrations; (2) package check-in procedures; (3) unit dosage prep and safe use including two diagnostic administrations of permitted material and one administration of iodine-131 for a whole body scan; (4) wipe test counting; (5) waste handling; (6) sealed source inventories and leak tests; (7) routine security of permitted material; (8) dose calibrator tests; (9) radiation safety program audits; (10) any contamination events (none); (11) annual refresher training and HAZMAT refresher training for NMTs; and (12) dosimetry for CY 2010: 392mr-DDE; 1091mr-SDE; For CY 2011: 465mr-DDE; 1751mr-SDE; and for CY 2012 through February: 87mr-DDE; 769mr-SDE.

The inspector performed independent and confirmatory radiation measurements which indicated results consistent with permittee survey records and postings. The inspector was accompanied by Gary E. Williams, Director, National Health Physics Program (NHPP).

No violations or issues were identified.

