



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
1600 EAST LAMAR BLVD
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4511

November 14, 2012

H. Dale Snowder
President
Qal-Tek Associates
3998 Commerce Circle
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 030-34866/2012-001

Dear Mr. Snowder:

This report refers to the inspection conducted by the NRC in response to a March 20, 2012, telephone call from Qal-Tek Associates regarding a shipment of 12 brachytherapy needles. Qal-Tek had shipped the brachytherapy needles from a medical facility in Bangor, Maine, to the Qal-Tek facility located in Idaho Falls, Idaho. Your staff informed us that some of the brachytherapy needles (with Cs-137) were found to be contaminated when they arrived at your facility and that, after extensive contamination surveys at the medical facility in Maine and at your facility in Idaho, you determined that the contamination remained inside the shipping container. The on-site portions of the inspection were conducted on March 21-22, 2012, and continued with in-office reviews through October 15, 2012. Our reviews included consultation with the NRC's Office of General Counsel and Office of Enforcement. A preliminary inspection briefing was conducted with you and your staff at the conclusion of the onsite portion on March 22, 2012. The final results of the inspection were discussed with you and your staff during an exit briefing on October 19, 2012.

The inspection was an examination of activities conducted under Byproduct Materials License 11-27610-01 as they related to the safe use and handling of licensed material and a review of the circumstances where Qal-Tek identified unexpected radioactive contamination of brachytherapy needles and the interior of the shipping container. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selected examination of procedures and representative records, observation of activities, and interviews with personnel.

The inspectors determined that, once your staff identified the contamination of the brachytherapy needles at your facility in Idaho, you followed your procedures by containing the contamination, performing extensive surveys of the personnel and the shipping receipt room, securing the building until a plan and radiation work permit could be developed, and contacting the medical center in Maine to ensure the facility was not contaminated. Your staff developed a radiation work permit and implemented a plan to seal the sources inside a container. NRC inspectors performed contamination surveys inside and outside the building, and found no contamination. Your staff also conducted an investigation, identified deficiencies in your program, and took corrective actions to prevent such an event from repeating. Based on the results of this inspection, no violations were identified.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, and your response will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the NRC's Agency wide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To the extent possible, your response should not include any personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information so that it can be made available to the Public without redaction.

Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, please contact me at 817-200-1130.

Sincerely,

/RA/

G. Michael Vasquez, Chief
Nuclear Materials Safety Branch A

Docket: 030-34866
License: 11-27610-01

cc:
Idaho Radiation Control Program Director

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