



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III  
2443 WARRENVILLE RD. SUITE 210  
LISLE, IL 60532-4352

July 3, 2014

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 03034325/2014002(DNMS) – VA BLACK HILLS  
HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, FORT MEADE, SOUTH DAKOTA

Dear Mr. Williams:

On June 5, 2014, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) conducted a routine inspection at the VA Black Hills Health Care System, Fort Meade, South Dakota. The inspection was limited to a review of activities authorized under Permit Number 40-16087-01. The inspector conducted an exit meeting with the management and 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 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure 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's website 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 a long horizontal stroke.

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

Docket No.: 030-34325  
License No.: 03-23853-01VA  
Permit No.: 40-16087-01

Enclosure:  
Inspection Report 03034325/2014002(DNMS)

**SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT AND COMPLIANCE INSPECTION**

1. LICENSEE/LOCATION INSPECTED:  Department of Veterans Affairs Under Secretary for Health, Washington, D.C. Location: VA Black Hills Health Care System Fort Meade, South Dakota  REPORT NUMBER(S) 2014002		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  June 5, 2014	

**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	Latischa M. Hanson		7/3/14
BRANCH CHIEF	Patricia Pelke		7/3/2014

**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: VA Black Hills Health Care System Fort Meade, South Dakota  REPORT NUMBER(S) 2014002	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  June 5, 2014
--------------------------------------	---	--

6. INSPECTION PROCEDURES USED  87131	7. INSPECTION FOCUS AREAS  03.01 - 03.08
--	--

**SUPPLEMENTAL INSPECTION INFORMATION**

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

Main Office Inspection                      Next Inspection Date:                      N/A

Field Office Inspection    Fort Meade, South Dakota

Temporary Job Site Inspection

**PROGRAM SCOPE**

The VA Black Hills Health Care System in Fort Meade, South Dakota (the Permittee), is a Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) facility authorized under permit number 40-16087-01 for limited-scope medical uses of byproduct material. The DVA is authorized to issue permits to DVA facilities under the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Master Materials License No. 03-23853-01VA. The permittee is authorized for the use of byproduct material in diagnostic nuclear medicine procedures.

**Performance Observations**

The permit authorizes the possession and use of byproduct material at the Permittee's facility located at 113 Comanche Road, Fort Meade, South Dakota. The location primarily used byproduct material as described Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 35, and a molybdenum-99/technetium-99 generator. The Permittee received a 3 curie molybdenum-99/technetium-99m generator every Sunday evening from Mallinckrodt. The inspector directly observed that the Permittee maintained controlled access and provided adequate security of radioactive material and areas of authorized use. The Permittee performed approximately 1-2 procedures per day. The Permittee reported they had not conducted any procedures using byproduct material under Title 10 CFR Part 35.40 regulatory requirement for the past two years; therefore no written directives were reviewed. The inspector observed the nuclear medicine technologist conduct the morning QA. A random review of required records was performed by the inspector and noted that each was maintained in accordance with regulatory requirements. The Permittee utilized a contract health physics company that conducted the required radiation compliance and quality assurance tests, inclusive of quarterly audits, sealed source inventories, radioactive waste management and disposal, and instrument calibrations. The Permittee's Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) oversees personnel monitoring and radiation safety training. The Permittee had an active Radiation Safety Committee that met quarterly and conducted an annual management review.



**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: VA Black Hills Health Care System Fort Meade, South Dakota  REPORT NUMBER(S) 2014002	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  June 5, 2014
--------------------------------------	---	--

6. INSPECTION PROCEDURES USED  87131	7. INSPECTION FOCUS AREAS  03.01 - 03.08
--	--

**SUPPLEMENTAL INSPECTION INFORMATION**

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

Main Office Inspection                      Next Inspection Date:                      N/A

Field Office Inspection    Fort Meade, South Dakota

Temporary Job Site Inspection

**PROGRAM SCOPE**

It was identified that nuclear medicine operations at the Hot Springs, South Dakota location only operated on Tuesdays and are performed by the RSO, if and when a case is scheduled. The RSO was out of town during this inspection, so an inspection of this campus was not able to be conducted. Additionally, it was noted in the March 2014 Annual Radiation Safety Program Management Review that the RSO is preparing to retire by the year's end and a qualified replacement is diligently being pursued, in close coordination with the DVA's National Health Physics Program (NHPP).



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

Docket No.: 030-34325  
License No.: 03-23853-01VA  
Permit No.: 40-16087-01

Enclosure:  
Inspection Report 03034325/2014002(DNMS)

DISTRIBUTION:

Darrell Roberts  
Patrick Louden  
Jack Giessner  
Steven Orth  
Carole Ariano  
Paul Pelke  
Patricia Buckley  
Carmen Olteanu

ADAMS Accession Number:

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\DNMS\II\Work in progress\VAmm\HOTSPRINGScover\LETTER062014.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	E	RIII DNMS		RIII		RIII	
NAME	KNull:ps*KGN		PPelke*PJP					
DATE	7/03/14		7/03/14					

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY