



# Ozarks Medical Center

The Right Care, Right Here

October 26, 2015

John B. Giessner, Director  
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety  
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region III  
2443 Warrenville Road, Suite 210  
Lisle, IL 60532-4352

RE: 03014280/2015001(DNMS); EA-15-177

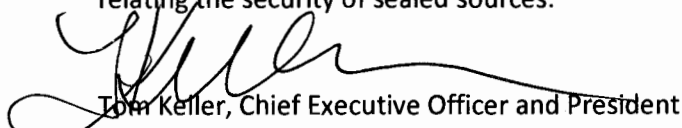
Dear Mr. Giessner;

This letter is in response to an issue raised in NRC inspection report No. 03014280/2015001(DNMS); EA-15-177. The issue concerns whether or not a Co-57 sealed source was temporarily left in an unsecured area during daily QC procedures on one gamma camera while the technologist began a background count on a second camera.

This issue stems from the layout of the nuclear medicine department and the practice of the technologist in acquiring daily gamma camera floods. The nuclear medicine department has only one door that enters into the control area from an outside corridor. The control area looks into two nuclear medicine rooms, each room with one camera. The technologist placed the Co-57 flood source on one camera, then exited that room, passed through the control room, and enter the second camera room to start a background count on that second camera. The wall between the camera rooms is solid and thus for the 30 seconds the technologist was in the second camera room he cannot directly see the flood source on the first camera. However he is able to hear the opening and closing of the only department door that exits the control to the outside corridor and thus would be alerted to anyone entering or exiting the department.

In order to address the NRC's concerns, locks have been installed on the doors to both gamma camera rooms. They will remain locked when sealed sources are present in those rooms, which only occurs during QC procedures. Access to the rooms is thus secured during daily QC procedures. This will ensure all sealed sources are either under the direct observation of the technologist and/or secured in locked rooms at all times.

The locks were installed on the doors August 5, 2015. The technologists have been implementing the new practices described above since that date. A formal policy was developed on October 15, 2015 and is attached. In addition; future annual in-service training will include discussion of security issues relating the security of sealed sources.

  
Tom Keller, Chief Executive Officer and President  
Ozarks Medical Center  
P.O. Box 1100  
West Plains, MO 65775

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**Mail all correspondence to:** Ozarks Medical Center • P.O. Box 1100 • West Plains, MO 65775  
Services located at: 1100 Kentucky Ave. • West Plains, Mo. • 417-256-9111

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