



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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

February 18, 2016

Mr. Craig Adams, 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 03034325/2016001(DNMS) – CENTRAL ALABAMA  
VETERANS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

Dear Mr. Adams:

On January 20, 2016, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) conducted a routine inspection at the Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System, Montgomery, Alabama. The inspection was limited to a review of activities authorized under Permit Number 01-03042-01. 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.

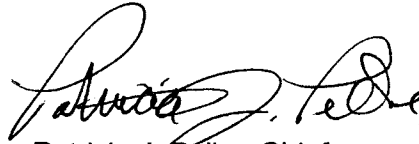
In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC's Public Document Room or from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management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

C. Adams

-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, sweeping underline.

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

Docket No. 030-34325  
License No. 03-23853-01VA  
Permit No. 01-03042-01

Enclosure:  
IR 03034325/2016001(DNMS)

C. Adams

-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. 01-03042-01

Enclosure:  
IR 03034325/2016001(DNMS)

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NAME	KNull:ps PJPelke for		PJPelke					
DATE	2/18/2016		2/18/2016					

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**SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT AND COMPLIANCE INSPECTION**

<b>1. LICENSEE/LOCATION INSPECTED:</b> Department of Veterans Affairs Under Secretary for Health Washington, D.C. Location: Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System  REPORT NUMBER(S) 2016001	<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> January 20, 2016
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**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	Hector Bermudez		2/18/2016
BRANCH CHIEF	Patricia J. Pelke		2/18/2016

**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: Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System

REPORT NUMBER(S) 2016001

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

January 20, 2016

6. INSPECTION PROCEDURES USED

87130

7. INSPECTION FOCUS AREAS

02.01-02.07

**SUPPLEMENTAL INSPECTION INFORMATION**

1. PROGRAM CODE(S)

02121

2. PRIORITY

5

3. LICENSEE CONTACT

Craig Adams, NHPP

4. TELEPHONE NUMBER

(501) 257-1573

- Main Office Inspection                      Next Inspection Date:           N/A
- Field Office Inspection    Montgomery, AL
- Temporary Job Site Inspection

**PROGRAM SCOPE**

This was a routine, unannounced inspection of the Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System, located in Montgomery, Alabama. The facility (permittee) holds permit number 01-03042-02 issued by the National Health Physics Program under the Department of Veterans Affairs Master Materials License.

The permittee conducted diagnostic procedures under 10 CFR 35.100 and 35.200, and in vitro studies under 10 CFR 31.11. Common procedures performed included bone scans, cardiac stress tests and occasional thyroid uptake studies. The nuclear medicine suite performed between five to eight procedures daily, and received unit doses from Southeast Apothecary, located in Montgomery, Alabama. The pharmacy is restricted from having access to the permittee's hot lab. In-vitro studies were performed using pre-packaged kits. All permitted material is held for decay-in-storage. The nuclear medicine suite, which is operated by one nuclear medicine technologist (NMT), contained one camera, one treadmill, and one dose calibrator. Quality control of equipment was performed on a daily basis. The NMT conducted radiation surveys at the beginning and end of each day for all areas in the nuclear medicine suite. The permittee also had an active Radiation Safety Committee as required in the permit, and met on a quarterly basis.

There were two physicians users approved on the permit, one nuclear medicine technologist, and one contract RSO. The RSO also served as the physicist, and performed duties that included calibration checks of the dose calibrator and leak testing of sealed sources.

The NMT described for the inspector how a variety of tasks are performed, including: preparing doses, injecting patients, explaining procedures to patients, scanning patients, preparing records, disposing of waste, etc. The NMT demonstrated a good understanding of radiation safety principles as well as security practices. Radiation surveys were taken during these activities. All readings were in compliance with regulatory requirements and consistent with licensee postings. The following records were reviewed: annual program reviews, audits, dosimetry, radiation safety committee minutes, leak tests and inventory, and instrument calibrations. No concerns were identified. An exit briefing was held with the interim Director and the Imaging Supervisor to discuss the results of the inspection.

Within the scope of the inspection, no violations were noted.