



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
REGION III  
2443 WARRENVILLE RD. SUITE 210  
LISLE, IL 60532-4352

August 30, 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 03034325/2016012(DNMS)  
AMARILLO VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, AMARILLO, TEXAS**

Dear Mr. Adams:

On August 9, 2016, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) conducted a routine inspection at the Amarillo VA Health Care System, Amarillo, Texas. The inspection was limited to a review of activities authorized under Permit Number 42-00504-01. 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.

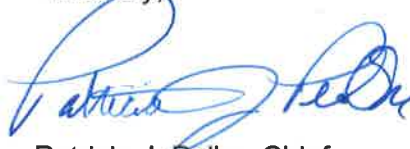
In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC's Public Document Room or from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), accessible from the NRC's website 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,



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

Docket No. 030-34325  
License No. 03-23853-01VA  
Permit No. 42-00504-01

Enclosure:  
IR 03034325/2016012(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. 42-00504-01

Enclosure:  
IR 03034325/2016012(DNMS)

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NAME	RErickson:ps		KNull		PJPelke			
DATE	8/30/2016		8/25/2016		8/30/2016			

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**SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT AND COMPLIANCE INSPECTION**

<p>1. LICENSEE/LOCATION INSPECTED:                  Department of Veterans Affairs                  Under Secretary for Health                  Washington, D.C.                  Location: Amarillo VA Health Care System, Amarillo, TX                  REPORT NUMBER(S) 2016012</p>	<p>2. NRC/REGIONAL OFFICE                  Region III                  U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission                  2443 Warrenville Road, Suite 210                  Lisle, IL 60532-4352</p>
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<p>3. DOCKET NUMBER(S) 030-34325</p>	<p>4. LICENSE NUMBER(S) 03-23853-01VA</p>	<p>5. DATE(S) OF INSPECTION August 9, 2016</p>
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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	Randy Erickson		8/30/2016
BRANCH CHIEF	Patricia J. Pelke		8/30/2016

**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: Amarillo VA Health Care System, Amarillo, TX  
  
REPORT NUMBER(S) 2016012

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  
  
August 9, 2016

6. INSPECTION PROCEDURES USED  
  
87130

7. INSPECTION FOCUS AREAS  
  
All

**SUPPLEMENTAL INSPECTION INFORMATION**

1. PROGRAM CODE(S)  
  
02121

2. PRIORITY  
  
3

3. LICENSEE CONTACT  
  
Craig Adams

4. TELEPHONE NUMBER  
  
(501) 257-1573

- Main Office Inspection                      Next Inspection Date:                      N/A
- Field Office Inspection    Amarillo, TX
- Temporary Job Site Inspection

**PROGRAM SCOPE**

This was a routine unannounced inspection of a permittee under the Department of Veterans Affairs master materials license authorized for 35.100, 35.200 and gadolinium-153. The permittee had two full-time nuclear medicine technologists (NMT) operating two cameras. The nuclear medicine clinic performed the full range of diagnostic procedures, however the majority of the studies were cardiac studies. Approximately 4-5 studies were performed per day. The permittee used technetium-99m unit dosages supplied by Panhandle Radiopharmaceuticals, Amarillo, TX. All dosages were assayed in the dose calibrator prior to administration, and the dose calibrator quality control was performed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. The hot lab was secured by a PIV card key pad entry. All areas of use and storage were found to be properly posted and all permitted material was appropriately labeled. Instrumentation that was used to perform radiation surveys was calibrated, and the NMTs were knowledgeable of the operation. Radiation area surveys were performed daily, and contamination surveys were done weekly. All of the NMTs wore lab coats, gloves, and whole body/ring dosimeters. Dosimetry was provided by Mirion and exchanged on a monthly basis. Dosimetry results were maintained by the Department Supervisor and provided to the NMTs each month. The RSO is an authorized user and is on-site daily.

The permittee utilized the services of a medical physics consultant on a quarterly basis. Hazmat training was performed in-house and online, and records were maintained. The permittee also used Xenon for lung studies and clearance times were calculated and posted. Negative pressure was confirmed prior to each study. Waste was decayed in storage following the guidance in RIS 2014-17. During the inspection the inspector observed package delivery and check-in, dose drawing and the injection of one patient. No issues were identified.

An exit briefing was conducted with the facility Director, Associate Director, Chief of Staff, Nuclear Medicine Administrative Officer and an NMT.

Within the scope of this inspection, no violations were identified.