



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION III
2443 WARRENVILLE ROAD, SUITE 210
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4352

May 31, 2019

Edwin M. Leidholdt, Jr., Ph.D., 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 03034325/2018007 (DNMS) – VA CONNECTICUT
HEALTHCARE SYSTEM, WEST HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Dear Dr. Leidholdt:

On April 24, 2019, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed a routine inspection at the VA Connecticut Healthcare System, West Haven, Connecticut. The inspection was limited to a review of activities authorized under Permit No. 06-00092-05. The inspector conducted an exit meeting with the management and staff at the facility at the completion of the inspection. Additional follow-up related to Part 37 requirements was provided by you to the inspector on May 2, 2019, and a final exit meeting was held with you by telephone on May 3, 2019.

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 the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS, accessible from the NRC website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>).

E. Leidholdt, Jr.

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Should you have any questions concerning this inspection or the enclosed report, please contact Bryan Parker of my staff at 678-828-7050.

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. 06-00092-05

Enclosure:
IR 03034325/2018007

Docket File Information

SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT AND COMPLIANCE INSPECTION

<p>1. LICENSEE/LOCATION INSPECTED:</p> <p>VA Connecticut Healthcare System 950 Campbell Avenue West Haven, CT 06516</p> <p>REPORT NUMBER(S) 030-34325/2018007</p>	<p>2. NRC/REGIONAL OFFICE</p> <p>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)</p> <p>030-34325</p>	<p>4. LICENSE NUMBER(S)</p> <p>03-23853-03VA</p>	<p>5. DATE(S) OF INSPECTION</p> <p>April 23-24 and May 3, 2019</p>
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<p>6. INSPECTION PROCEDURES USED</p> <p>87134, 87137</p>	<p>7. INSPECTION FOCUS AREAS</p> <p>All</p>
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SUPPLEMENTAL INSPECTION INFORMATION

<p>1. PROGRAM CODE(S)</p> <p>02110, 03610, 03510</p>	<p>2. PRIORITY</p> <p>2</p>	<p>3. LICENSEE CONTACT</p> <p>Ed Leidholdt, Ph.D., Director, NHPP</p>	<p>4. TELEPHONE NUMBER</p> <p>(707) 562-8374</p>
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Main Office Inspection Next Inspection Date: N/A

Field Office Inspection: VA West Haven, Connecticut campus

Temporary Job Site Inspection

PROGRAM SCOPE

This was an unannounced, routine inspection of Permit No. 06-00092-05 under the Department of Veterans Affairs' (DVA) Master Materials License (MML). The permittee is a medical broad scope facility authorized for medical diagnosis and therapy, research, and irradiation of materials. There is one location of use authorized at the West Haven, CT campus that is part of the VA Connecticut Healthcare System.

Seven nuclear medicine technologists (NMT) rotate through the Nuclear Medicine and PET Departments. A full-time Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) oversees radiation safety activities, including training, dosimetry, sealed source inventory and leak tests, surveys, dose specific calculations, and program audits. The RSO is assisted by a full-time Assistant RSO. The Radiation Safety Committee (RSC) meets on a quarterly basis and oversees the radiation safety program.

The Nuclear Medicine Department operates Monday through Friday and performs a wide range of nuclear medicine studies (5 patients per day). Unit dosages from Cardinal Health are assayed prior to administration. In 2018, five iodine-131 (I-131) therapies were performed and in 2019 no I-131 therapies had been done to date. Fifteen administrations of radium-223 Xofigo, provided by Bayer, were performed in 2018 and none to date in 2019. Records of the activity administered, user training, and written test procedures were reviewed and found to be adequate. The inspector reviewed a selection of written directives and determined that therapies were being performed in accordance with the written directives. The PET department operates Monday through Friday (Mon/Weds cardiac studies and Tues/Thurs imaging) and treats approximately 8 patients per day. PET procedures include whole body scans with fluorine-18 (F-18) provided by PETNET, and/or rubidium-82 cardiac scans from strontium-82/rubidium-82 (Sr-82/Rb-82) generators provided by Bracco. Doses were assayed as required prior to administration.

There are three principal investigators (PI) in two labs performing research activities (C-14 and Tc-99). Use is limited and continues to decline. One new PI was approved by the RSC since the last inspection. The inspector reviewed the training documentation and confirmed the RSC's approval of the PI.

Letter to Edwin Leidholdt, Jr., from Patricia J. Pelke dated May 31, 2019.

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OFFICE	RI-DNMS	C	RIII-DNMS	C	RIII-DNMS	C	RIII	
NAME	TWeidner:ps		BParker		PJPelke			
DATE	5/23/2019		5/22/2019		5/31/2019			

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