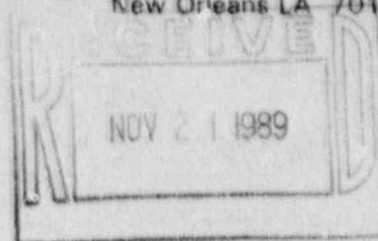


**Veterans
Administration**in Reply Refer To: **629/115**

NOV 15 1989

Mr. Bill Beach
Director, Division of Radiation Safety and Safeguards
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region IV
611 Ryan Plaza Drive
Suite 1000
Arlington, Texas 76011

THRU: Director, Nuclear Medicine Service (115)
c/o Ms. Helen Malaskiewicz
Program Analyst
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Mr. Beach:

The following is in reply to the violations sited in your 26 October 1989, letter regarding NRC License #17-01322-07, Docket 30-15040/89/02:

1. On 7 November 1989, the Radiation Safety Committee completely re-evaluated the Radiation Safety Program at the VA Medical Center, New Orleans, Louisiana. (Enclosed please find copy of that manual.)
2. The Committee is of the opinion that the reasons for violations cited in your 29 August 1989 letter and reply 13 September 1989 were due to the lack of a central filing area and compilation of records in a manner that permits retrieval by more than one person at this station.
3. The Radiation Safety Manual approved by the Radiation Safety Committee on 7 November 1989, indicates specific duties for the Radiation Safety Officer (page 3). The Radiation Safety Officer will be responsible for accuracy and completeness of all tasks required by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission by signing key documents. Our Programs requires signature by the Radiation Safety Officer for records of:

- a. Sealed source inventory.
- b. Sealed source leak test.
- c. Survey of sealed source storage area.
- d. Dose calibrator linearity.
- e. Dose calibrator accuracy
- f. Dose calibrator geometry.

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*"America is #1—Thanks to our Veterans"*1/0
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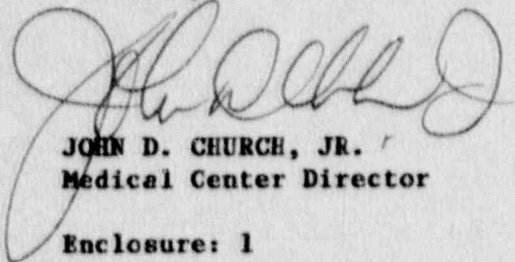
Mr. Bill Beach

Frequency of "checks" required are specified on page 42, 43, 44, 45, 46 of the Radiation Safety Manual.

4. A new centralized filing system to expedite record retrieval will permit the Radiation Safety Officer to spot check and sign documents at required intervals.

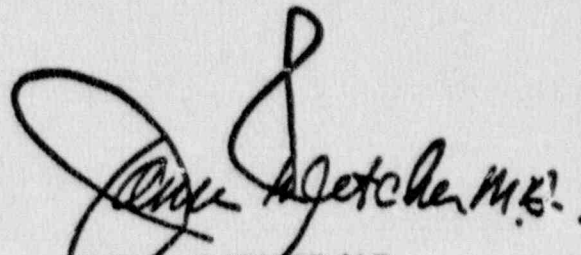
The Radiation Safety Committee is of the opinion that policies and procedures documented in the Radiation Safety Manual are adequate to maintain a current, accurate Health Physics Program.

Sincerely,



JOHN D. CHURCH, JR.
Medical Center Director

Enclosure: 1



JAMES W. FLETCHER, M.D.
Director, Nuclear Medicine Service (115)
Veterans Administration
Washington, DC 20420