In Reply Refer To: License: 42-00220-06 Docket: 30-03256/89-01

Veterans Administration Medical Center

ATTN: C. Wayne Hawkins

Medical Center Director

4500 South Lancaster Road Dallas, Texas 75216

Gentlemen:

Thank you for your letter of November 14, 1989, in response to our letter and attached Notice of Violation both dated October 13, 1989. As a result of our review, we find additional information, as discussed with Mr. Jeff Triebel during a telephone call on December 5, 1989, is needed. Specifically, your response to the three violations identified estimated dates of achieving full compliance that appeared to be excessively distant compared to the nature of the violations. Please provide supporting documentation to justify these dates or propose earlier ones.

Please provide the supplemental information within 15 days of your receipt of this letter so that we can continue our review of this matter.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:
CHARLES L. CAIN
A. Bill Beach, Director
Division of Radiation Safety
and Safeguards

cc:

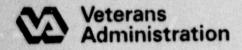
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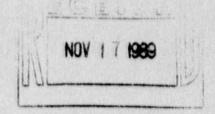


In Reply Refer To: 549/115

November 14, 1989

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission Region IV 611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000 Arlington, TX 76011

REF: License: 42-00220-06, Docket: 30-03256/89-01



This letter is in response to the Notice of Violation dated October 13, 1989.

First violation - Failure to have survey meters calibrated

Since our last inspection in September of 1988, our main priorities have focused on providing adequate training of personnel. Although survey meter calibrations were stressed in training, compliance with this requirement was not yet being enforced. We are now in the process of identifying laboratories that have survey meters and have located a company to perform the calibrations. The appropriate laboratories will be notified of the calibration requirement and expected to comply. The Radiation Safety Officer will monitor compliance during regular laboratory inspections with full compliance expected by May 1990.

Second violation - Failure to have thyroid counts

Again, priorities have focused on training and although the requirement for thyroid counts was stressed in training, enforcement had not yet begun. We will be identifying each laboratory that receives radioactive iodine and require them to comply with requirements. Laboratories not complying would not be allowed to receive further radioactive iodine. Full compliance is expected by March 1990.

Third violation - Failure to maintain unit log books and disposal records

Priorities have again focused on training and although the requirement for log books was covered in training, enforcement had not yet begun. We will be working closely with research personnel in making sure they understand the requirements and in helping them maintain adequate records. Compliance will be monitored by the Radiation Safety Officer during regular inspections with full compliance expected by June 1990.

. WAYNE HAWKINS

Medical Center Director

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In Reply Refer To:

Licenses: 42-00220-06

42-00220-08

SNM-1365

Dockets: 30-03256/89-01

30-00503/89-01 70-01401/89-01

Veterans Administration Medical Center

ATTN: C. Wayne Hawkins

Medical Center Director

4500 South Lancaster Road Dallas, Texas 75216

Gentlemen:

This refers to the routine, unannounced radiation safety inspection conducted by Ms. Vivian Campbell and Mr. Anthony D. Gaines of this office on August 29 and 30, 1989, of the activities authorized by NRC Byproduct Material Licenses 42-00220-06, SNM-1365, and 42-00220-08, and to the discussion of our findings held by the inspectors with members of your staff at the conclusion of the inspection.

The inspection was an examination of the activities conducted under the license as they relate to radiation safety and to compliance with the Commission's rules and regulations and the conditions of the license. The inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews of personnel, independent measurements, and observations by the inspectors.

During this inspection, no violations or deviations were identified for NRC Byproduct Material Licenses SNM-1365 and 42-00220-08. However, certain of your activities under NRC Byproduct Material License 42-00220-06 were found not to be conducted in full compliance with NRC requirements. Consequently, you are required to respond to this matter in writing, in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.201 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations. Your response should be based on the specifics contained in the Notice of Violation enclosed with this letter.

The inspectors also reviewed the actions you had taken with respect to the two violations for License No. 42-00220-06 observed during our previous inspection conducted on September 12 and 13, 1988. They verified that the corrective actions for these violations had been implemented.

The response directed by this letter and the accompanying Notice is not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, PL 96-511.

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Should you have any questions concerning this letter, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely.

Original Signed By:
A: B. BEACH

A. Bill Beach, Director Division of Radiation Safety and Safeguards

Enclosure: Appendix - Notice of Violation for License No. 42-00220-06

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APPENDIX

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Veterans Administration Medical Center

Docket: 30-03256/89-01

Dallas, Texas License: 00220-06

During an NRC inspection conducted on August 29 and 30, 1989, violations of NRC requirements were identified. In accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions," 10 CFR Part 2, Appendix C (1989) (Enforcement Policy), the violations are listed below:

License Condition 23 requires that licensed material be possessed and used in accordance with statements, representations, and procedures contained in the application dated April 17, 1985.

a. Item 10.a.(7) of the application requires, in part, that survey meters be calibrated annually and after servicing.

Contrary to the above, on the day of the inspection some research laboratories were found to have survey meters that had never been calibrated or ones that had not been calibrated for several years. These survey meters were used to make surveys for decay-in-storage disposals of radioactive waste.

This is a Severity Level IV violation. (Supplement VI)

b. Item 23.a.(4) of the application requires, in part, that procedures for use of radioactive material that are approved by the Radioisotope Safety Committee are accomplished in strict compliance with all safety rules as directed in the Radiation Safety Manual (revised June 1, 1985).

Item III B.4(a) and (b) of the manual requires, in part, that individuals who work with more than 1.0 mCi of radioactive iodine at one time in unsealed form must have a thyroid count done within 24 to 36 hours after exposure, and if they use more than 1.0 mCi of radioactive iodine in unsealed form over a 3-month period they must have a thyroid count at regular 3-month intervals.

Contrary to the above, an individual in a research laboratory, who handled on various occasions 10 mCi of iodine-125 at one time to perform iodinations, had not received a thyroid count since 1978. Also, other individuals in research laboratories who used more than 1.0 mCi of iodine-125 over 3-month periods had not received thyroid counts.

This is a Severity Level IV violation. (Supplement VI)

c. Item 18.(a) of the application requires, in part, that each time radioactive material is used, disposed of as waste, or transferred to another user within the hospital, an appropriate entry must be made in the Unit Log Book, showing date, activity, and method of dispensation.

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Contrary to the above, numerous laboratories had not used the Unit Log Book to keep track of their radioactive material, and some of the laboratories had not kept any records of disposals made by decay-in-storage or by the sewer system.

This is a Severity Level V violation. (Supplement VI)

Pursuant to the provisions of 10 CFR 2.201, Veterans Administration Medical Center is hereby required to submit to this office, within 30 days of the date of the letter transmitting this Notice, a written statement or explanation in reply, including for each violation: (1) the reason for the violation if admitted, (2) the corrective steps which have been taken and the results achieved, (3) the corrective steps which will be taken to avoid further violations, and (4) the date when full compliance will be achieved. Where good cause is shown, consideration will be given to extending the response time.

Dated at Arlington, Texas, this 13th day of October 1989

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