

AUG 15 1990

Docket Nos. 030-01314  
030-00123  
070-02199

License Nos. 08-00942-05  
08-00942-04  
SNM-1605

Veterans Administration Medical Center  
ATTN: Timothy Williams  
Director  
50 Irving Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20422

Gentlemen:

Subject: Routine Inspection No. 90-001

On May 30-31, 1990, Frank Costello of this office conducted a routine safety inspection at the above address of activities authorized by the above listed NRC licenses. The inspection was an examination of your licensed activities as they relate to radiation safety and to compliance with the Commission's regulations and the license conditions. The inspection consisted of observations by the inspector, interviews with personnel, and a selective examination of representative records. In addition, our inspection examined the activities covered in your correspondence dated March 28, 1989. The findings of the inspection were discussed with Wayne Whiting and other members of your staff at the conclusion of the inspection.

Based on the results of this inspection, it appears that your activities were not conducted in full compliance with NRC requirements. A Notice of Violation is enclosed as Appendix A and categorizes each violation by severity level in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions," 10 CFR Part 2, Appendix C (Enforcement Policy). You are required to respond to this letter and in preparing your response, you should follow the instructions in Appendix A.

Item A described in the attached Notice of Violation involving the unauthorized disposal of licensed material is classified as a Severity Level IV violation. As indicated in Supplement IV of the NRC Enforcement Policy, significant violations of this type are normally classified as Severity Level III. However, after careful consideration of the factors involved in this specific instance, it is felt this incident posed a minimal health and safety problem. We have exercised our judgment under the NRC Enforcement Policy and have classified this violation as Severity Level IV. Similar violations of this type in the future may result in additional enforcement action.

Based on discussions at the conclusion of the inspection, it is our understanding that all misadministrations involving licensed materials will be reported to and reviewed by the Radiation Safety Committee at the next Committee meeting. Please confirm this understanding in your reply to this letter.

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REGION I

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08-00942-04 PNU

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Veterans Administration Medical Center 2

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter and your reply will be placed in the Public Document Room.

The responses directed by this letter and the accompanying Notice are 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.

Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:  
Jenny Johansen

*for*

John D. Kinneman, Chief  
Nuclear Materials Safety Section B  
Division of Radiation Safety  
and Safeguards

Enclosure:

Combined NRC Region I Inspection Report Nos. 030-01314/90-001,  
030-00123/90-001, and 070-02199/90-001

cc:

Public Document Room (PDR)  
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)  
District of Columbia  
James Smith, Radiation Safety Officer

bcc:

Region I Docket Room (w/concurrences)  
Management Assistant, DRMA

*FMC*  
RI:DRSS  
Costello/bj

08/8/90

RI:DRSS  
Kinneman

08/9/90

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