



AUG 23 1982

Mr. J. R. Miller, Chief  
Technical Inspection Branch  
Region III  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
799 Roosevelt Road  
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

Dear Mr. Miller:

This is in reply to your letter of July 26, 1982 relating to items of apparent non-compliance with NRC License No. 14-00822-01, encountered during an inspection by your representatives on July 6-8, 1982 of activities in this Medical Center. We have reviewed the items of apparent non-compliance and hope you will find the following response satisfactory.

1. "... an individual identified by the RSO as not have received the training specified and was less than 18 years of age, was observed by the NRC Inspectors frequenting a restricted area."

a. Corrective action taken:

The individual identified is a high school student and had been invited by his brother, a laboratory assistant to observe an experiment for a couple of days. No radioisotope was being used while the teenager was visiting. Even though no hazard was present or incurred, the visit was an unauthorized access to restricted area since no prior approval had been obtained from the Radiation Safety Officer.

The teenager's visit was terminated immediately. The Radiation Safety Officer discussed the matter in specifics with the principal research investigator responsible for that area.

b. Corrective action taken to avoid possible further apparent non-compliance:

The pertinent regulation and policy were reviewed by the Radiation Safety Officer with the Chief of Research and Development Service on July 27, 1982. By a memorandum through the Chief on August 4, 1982, these regulations and policy were reviewed with research investigators.

c. The date when full compliance will be achieved:

It is expected that no unauthorized individual will be found in a restricted areas now or in the future. Visitors will be under supervision, and workers will be given orientation on radiation safety.

In Reply Refer To: 584/115

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2.

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2. " . . . the individual in charge of handling and administering the therapeutic liquid iodine was not opening and preparing the solutions in a fume hood and a thyroid bioassay measurement was not performed 24 hours after the administration of liquid iodine-131."

a. Corrective action taken:

The therapeutic liquid iodine had been administered by a staff member in the Nuclear Medicine Service. He had been informed directly by the NRC inspector of the requirements of using a fume hood and thyroid bioassay.

b. Corrective action taken to avoid possible further apparent non-compliance:

These requirements have been reviewed in the staff meeting of Nuclear Medicine Service on July 15, 1982. Results of any thyroid bioassay will be reported to the Radiation Safety Officer.

c. The date when full compliance will be achieved:

The enforcement of the above requirements is expected to be effective immediately.

3. " . . . surveys of unused and decayed gold - 198 therapeutic implant seeds had not been performed prior to disposal to show compliance with 10 CFR 20-301."

a. Corrective action taken:

The Radiation Protection Office, University of Iowa, has been handling our waste disposal. They were notified immediately of the above violation. Records of subsequent waste disposal and survey have been forwarded to the Radiation Safety Officer of Veterans Administration Medical Center.

b. Corrective action taken to avoid possible further apparent non-compliance:

The Radiation Safety Officer will review records of waste disposal and survey and report to the Radiation Safety Committee.

c. The date when full compliance will be achieved:

Radioactive gold seeds are used only two or three times a year. The next disposal of any unused gold seeds will be handled in full compliance with Federal Regulations.

4. " . . . the Omnimedical Xenon-133 trap is to be monitored monthly."

3.

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a. Corrective action taken:

Subsequent to the inspection by your representatives, the trap was monitored on July 22, 1982.

b. Corrective action taken to avoid possible further non-compliance:

The above requirement was reviewed in the staff meeting of Nuclear Medicine Service on July 15, 1982. The Radiation Safety Officer will review the record of monitoring the Xenon trap regularly.

c. The date when full compliance will be achieved:

We are now in full compliance with the pertinent regulation.

Sincerely,

JOHN F. HICKMAN  
Medical Center Director