



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION V

1450 MARIA LANE
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94596-5368

MAR 15 1994

Docket No.: 030-01213
License No.: 04-00181-04

Veterans Administration Medical Center
Wadsworth Medical Center
Wilshire and Sawtelle Boulevards
Los Angeles, California 90073

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF VIOLATION
(NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 30-01213/94-01)

Attention: Mr. Kenneth Clark, Director

This refers to the special inspection conducted by Messrs. Kent M. Prendergast and Gregory P. Yuhas of this office on February 2-3, 1994. The inspection included a review of the circumstances surrounding the loss and subsequent discovery of five iridium 192 seeds reported to the NRC on January 21, 1994. At the conclusion of the inspection, the inspection findings were discussed with Mr. B. Herron, M. Bays, and other members of your staff.

The inspection was an examination of the activities conducted under your license as they relate to radiation safety, and to compliance with the Commission's requirements. The inspection consisted of an observation of facilities in your Radiation Therapy Services Department, a selective examination of procedures and representative records for iridium 192 use, interviews with personnel, and a visit to your brachytherapy source vendor.

Based on the results of this inspection, certain of your activities appeared to be in violation of NRC requirements, as specified in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice). These items have been categorized by severity levels as described in the NRC Enforcement Policy, 10 CFR Part 2, Appendix C. Violation A in the enclosed Notice involved the failure to inventory brachytherapy sources following their use. Violations B and C involved a failure to prepare adequate records of source use and surveys. Normally violations B and C would be noncited violations in accordance with Section VII.B. of the Enforcement Policy. However, in this case, Violations B and C are being cited because the failure to maintain adequate records is reflective of the more serious deficiency of your inadequate control of brachytherapy sources.

Other areas of concern identified during the inspection which were discussed with your staff included the level of oversight of your Brachytherapy Program provided by the Radiation Safety Office, and the level of supervision provided by the Source Custodian for physicians and physicists who have access to and use the sources. These issues may be indicative of program weaknesses and should be addressed to prevent future problems or violations.

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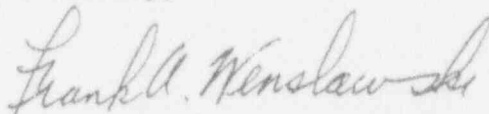
We considered classifying your failure to control the five brachytherapy sources as a Severity Level III problem, in accordance with the NRC Enforcement Policy. However, since we found no evidence that the five sources ever left the Brachytherapy Storage Room, we have decided not to proceed with that course of action.

You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. In your response, you should document the specific actions taken and any additional actions you plan to prevent recurrence. After reviewing your response to this Notice, including your proposed corrective actions and the results of future inspections, the NRC will determine whether further NRC enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with NRC regulatory requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

The responses directed by this letter and the enclosed Notice are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, Pub. L. No. 96-511.

Sincerely,



for Ross A. Scarano, Director
Division of Radiation Safety and
Safeguards

Enclosures:
Notice of Violation
NRC Inspection Report No. 30-01213/94-01

bcc w/enclosure:

Docket File

Inspection File

G. Cook

R. Huey

K. Perkins

E. Liedholdt, Veterans Health Services and Research Administration

F. Herbig, Dept. of Veterans Affairs

S. Collins, Region IV

bcc w/o enclosure:

M. Smith

D. Clevenger

Region V/ann

Kol
KPrendergast

3/15/94

Gay
GYuhas
3/14/94

MS/for (ad reversed)
RHuey
3/14/94

Jaw
FWenslawski
3/15/94

Jaw
RScarano
3/15/94

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YES / NO]	YES / NO]	YES / NO]	YES / NO]	YES / NO]

SEND TO DCS]	SEND TO PDR]
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