

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

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

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

During an NRC inspection conducted on February 2-3, 1994, 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, the violations are listed below:

- A. 10 CFR 35.406(a), Brachytherapy Sources Inventory, requires that promptly after removing them from a patient, the licensee return brachytherapy sources to the storage area (the Brachytherapy Storage Room) and count the number returned to ensure that all sources taken from the storage area have been returned.

Contrary to the above, on October 1, 1993, after removing them from a patient, the licensee did not count the sources returned to the storage area (the Brachytherapy Storage Room) to ensure that all sources taken from the storage area had been returned.

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

- B. 10 CFR 35.406(b) requires, in part, that a licensee make a record of brachytherapy source use that includes the initials of the individual who removed the sources from storage and the initials of the individual who returned the sources to storage.

Contrary to the above, as of February 3, 1993, the licensee's records of brachytherapy source usage for the implant performed on September 29, 1993, and the removal on October 1, 1993, included neither the initials of the individual who removed the sources from storage nor the initials of the individual who returned the sources to storage.

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

- C. 10 CFR 35.404 requires in part that immediately after removing the last temporary implant source from a patient, the licensee shall make a radiation survey of the patient with a radiation detection survey instrument. The survey record must include the date of the survey, the name of the patient, the dose rate from the patient expressed in millirem per hour and measured at one meter from the patient, the survey instrument used, and the initials of the individual who made the survey.

Contrary to the above, the record of a patient survey following the source removal on October 1, 1993, did not include the survey instrument used or the initials of the individual who made the survey.

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

Pursuant to the provisions of 10 CFR 2.201, V.A. Medical Center, Los Angeles is hereby required to submit a written statement or explanation to the Regional Administrator, Region V, with a copy to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Document Control Desk, Washington, D.C. 20555, within 30 days of the date of the letter transmitting this Notice of Violation (Notice). This reply should be clearly marked as a "Reply to a Notice of Violation" and should include for each violation: (1) the reason for the violation, or, if contested, the basis for disputing the violation, (2) the corrective steps that have been taken and the results achieved, (3) the corrective steps that will be taken to avoid further violations, and (4) the date when full compliance will be achieved. If an adequate reply is not received within the time specified in this Notice, the Commission may issue an order or demand for information as to why the license should not be modified, suspended, or revoked, or why such other action as may be proper should not be taken. Where good cause is shown, consideration will be given to extending the response time.

Dated at Walnut Creek, California
this 15th day of March 1994