

NOV 6 1990

License No. 35-16717-01
Docket No. 30-11681/90-02
EA No. 90-191

Newman Memorial Hospital
ATTN: Gary Mitchell
Interim Administrator
919 South Main Street
Shattuck, Oklahoma 73858

Gentlemen:

This refers to the special, unannounced radiation safety inspection conducted by Ms. L. L. Kasner of this office on October 11-15, 1990, of activities authorized by NRC Byproduct Material License No. 35-16717-01, and to the discussion of NRC's findings with the hospital administrator and the radiation safety officer (RSO) at the conclusion of the inspection.

The inspection was conducted in response to NRC's notification by Woodward Hospital and Health Center (WHHC) and Newman Memorial Hospital (NMH) of the improper transfer of licensed material from NMH to an individual who was an unauthorized recipient who subsequently transported the material to WHHC. The inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and records related to the specific incident, interviews of personnel, and observation by the inspector.

The inspection revealed a number of violations associated with this specific incident as well as others which are of a broader scope and involve the routine conduct of licensed activities. The most significant of the violations, the transfer of licensed material to an unauthorized recipient, is particularly notable in that it resulted in contamination of two individuals who had transported the material. Fortunately, this incident did not result in a significant radiation dose received by the individuals involved. However, this does not mitigate NRC's concern regarding NMH's failure to exercise the level of management controls necessary to ensure that activities are conducted in accordance with NRC requirements and in a manner which minimizes potential risk to members of the general public.

Additionally, NRC is concerned that the inspection findings indicate that NMH had not yet implemented corrective actions which were adequate to address the program management issues identified during our previous inspections conducted in May and June 1990. These issues included fundamental weaknesses in management controls and inadequate supervision of licensed activities by the RSO. These problems were again evidenced in the circumstances related to this incident. Consequently, you should be prepared to address NRC's concern regarding the repetitive nature of these issues during the enforcement conference discussed below scheduled for November 14, 1990.

*RIV:NMSIS
LLKasner:nh
/ /90

*C:NMSIS
CLCain
/ /90

~~EO
GFS:born
/90~~

D:DSS
ABB:ach
11 / 6 /90

*Previously concurred

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Thus, this letter also confirms the November 2, 1990, telephone conversation between you and Ms. L. L. Kasner of my staff concerning NRC's request to conduct an enforcement conference concerning these issues. The enforcement conference has been scheduled for November 14, 1990, at 10:30 a.m. at the NRC Region IV office in Arlington, Texas. A proposed enforcement conference agenda is enclosed as Appendix B. During the enforcement conference, you should be prepared to address those specific items referenced in the inspection report as well as those specific actions planned or taken to prevent further violations.

We are releasing this report at this time for your information and to aid you in preparing for the conference. You will be notified by separate correspondence of our decision regarding enforcement action based on the findings of this inspection and the results of the enforcement conference. No written response to this report is required at this time; however, you may provide a response at this time, in particular, if you wish to describe any corrective actions taken.

Should you have any questions concerning this letter or the enclosed report, 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

Enclosures:

1. Appendix A - NRC Inspection Report
30-11681/90-02
2. Appendix B - Proposed Enforcement
Conference Agenda

cc: Oklahoma Radiation Control Program Director

bcc:

DMB - Original (IE-07)
RDMartin
ABBeach
LAYandell
MRodriguez, OC/LFDCB (4503)
*WLFisher
*CLCain
*LLKasner
*NMSIS
*MIS System
*RIV Files (2)
*RSTS Operator
*REHall, URFO
*GFSanborn
JLieberman

*W/766