

NOV. 29 1990

Docket No. 030-10026
CAL No. 1-90-019

License No. 31-02755-05

VA Medical Center
ATTN: Fred Malphurs, Director
113 Holland Avenue
Albany, New York 12208

Gentlemen:

Subject: Confirmatory Action Letter No. 1-90-019

On November 20-21, 1990, Mr. Christopher J. Eckert of this office conducted an inspection of NRC licensed activities at the above addressed facility. Several radiological safety weaknesses and apparent violations of NRC requirements were identified. The identified problems indicate an apparent lack of radiological safety program oversight at your facility.

Pursuant to a telephone conversation between you, Dr. Ronald Bellamy and Dr. Mohamed Shanbaky of this office on November 28, 1990, it is our understanding that you have taken or will take the following actions, which will be completed by the dates specified:

1. Perform a complete inventory of all your radioactive sealed sources. Provide the inventory results to this office by December 7, 1990. The results should indicate the serial number, activity and location of each source. Lost sources will be immediately reported to this office in accordance with 10 CFR 20.402 requirements.
2. Provide by January 31, 1991, training to your staff commensurate with their program functions and responsibilities. The training should include: (a) applicable NRC requirements; (b) your procedural requirements and (c) appropriate radiological safety precautions.
3. Obtain the services of an independent consultant to perform a comprehensive evaluation (audit) of your radiation safety program, to be completed by December 31, 1990.
4. Review the results of this audit, and provide, to this office, by January 31, 1991:
 - (a) a written response detailing your planned action for each audit finding

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- (b) a written plan for improving your radiation safety program at the Veterans Administration Medical Center. This plan will address, in addition to improvements discussed above:
1. Your management controls system and oversight of program activities,
 2. staffing requirements and assignments of program responsibilities,
 3. your procedures for performing radioactive sealed source inventory and control,
 4. your iodine therapy program and associated radiological controls, and
 5. your procedures for radioactive material package receipt and security.

In addition, it is our understanding that you have already revised your existing procedures to preclude the loss of licensed material from your radioactive materials receipt area.


During the above referenced November 28, 1990, telephone call, you also agreed to attend an Enforcement Conference to discuss the radiological safety weaknesses and apparent violations identified during the November 20-21 inspection. The Conference is to be held at our Region I office in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, at 10:00 a.m. on December 13, 1990.

The responses directed by this letter 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. 96-511. In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790(a), a copy of this letter will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Issuance of this Confirmatory Action Letter does not preclude the issuance of an Order formalizing the above commitments. If your understanding differs from that set forth above, please call me immediately.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:
Richard W. Cooper

 Malcolm R. Kiapp, Director
Division of Radiation Safety
and Safeguards

cc:
Public Document Room (PDR)
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)
State of New York

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