

MAY 05 1994

Docket No. 030-02984  
030-00465  
EA 94-066

License No. 37-01421-01  
37-01421-04

Geisinger Medical Center  
ATTN: Ms. Deborah Watson  
Administrative Director of Operations  
100 North Academy Avenue  
Danville, Pennsylvania 17822-0150

Dear Ms. Watson:

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION NOS. 030-02984/94-001, and 030-00465/94-001

This letter refers to the safety inspection conducted by Mr. Ihor Czerwinskyj of this office from March 29-31, 1994 of activities authorized by the above listed NRC licenses, and to a special safety inspection conducted on April 25, 1994, and to discussions of the findings held by the inspector with you, and other representatives of your staff on March 31, 1994, and April 25, 1994. The inspection was an examination of your licensed activities as they relate to radiation safety and to compliance with the Commission's regulations and the license conditions. Areas examined during the inspection are described in the NRC Region I Inspection Report which is enclosed with this letter (Enclosure 1). Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews of personnel, and observations by the inspector.

The use by your staff of the AECL Theratron 280 cobalt-60 teletherapy unit in March and April, 1993 with an inoperative timer is of significant concern to the NRC. The timer is essential to function as designed to prevent patient exposures to radiation exceeding prescribed limits. Although there were no exposures over the prescribed limit when your staff operated the unit without the timer, the apparent violations identified in the report are all associated with this event. As discussed during the telephone conversation between Ms. Catherine Arderko, of your staff, and Dr. Ronald Bellamy of this office on May 2, 1994, these apparent violations will be the subject of an enforcement conference to be held in Region I. The enforcement conference will begin at 11:00 a.m. on May 18, 1994.

The purposes of this conference are: to discuss the apparent violations, the cause(s) and safety significance; to provide you the opportunity to present your corrective actions accomplished and proposed; and to discuss any other information that will help us determine the appropriate enforcement action. You should be prepared to discuss the failure of the

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timer on your cobalt-60 teletherapy unit on March 31, 1993 and the events following this failure. Enforcement action for the violations will be considered by the NRC following the conference. The NRC Enforcement Policy is described in Appendix C of 10 CFR Part 2, a copy of which is enclosed for your information (Enclosure 2). Directions to the NRC Region I Office are also enclosed (Enclosure 3).

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice", Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter and the enclosed report will be placed in the Public Document Room.

No reply to this letter is required. Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

**Original Signed By:**  
Charles W. Hehl

Charles W. Hehl, Director  
Division of Radiation Safety  
and Safeguards

Enclosures:

1. NRC Region I Inspection Report Nos. 030-02984/94-001  
and 030-00465/94-001
2. 10 CFR Part 2
3. Directions to the Region I Office

cc:

Public Document Room (PDR)  
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Catherine Anderko, RSO

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bcc:

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S. Lewis, OGC

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*GESS. LTR*