

DEC. 14 1990

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

License No. 31-02755-05

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

Gentlemen:

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

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.

As a result, a Confirmatory Action Letter was issued to the Veterans Administration Medical Center, Albany, New York on November 29, 1990, to confirm commitments made with the NRC in a November 28, 1990 telephone call. These commitments included, but were not limited to, retention of an independent consultant to perform a comprehensive evaluation (audit) of your radiation safety program, by December 31, 1990, as well as, review of the audit results and development of an improvement plan by January 31, 1991.

In addition, on December 13, 1990, an Enforcement Conference was held with you and members of your staff to discuss the radiological safety weaknesses and apparent violations identified during the November 20-21 inspection. The conference was also attended by your consultant, as well as other Veterans Administration personnel.

During the conference, you committed to (a) retain a consultant(s) to assist the existing RSO in the day-to-day implementation of the radiation safety program until such time as (1) a new RSO is hired, trained, and assigned responsibility for the program, and (2) a license amendment is obtained from the NRC which names that individual as the new RSO. You also indicated that you plan to hire a new Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) who would be responsible for implementation of the radiation safety program. Pursuant to a telephone call on December 14, 1990, between you and Ms. Jean Gresick-Schugsta, of this office, we understand that you have already retained the consultant to assist the RSO. You further committed to document your completion of this action in a letter to this office by December 21, 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.

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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 at (FTS) 346-5283 immediately.

Sincerely,

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

cc:
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