

JAN 10 1994

Docket Nos. 030-01325
070-01500

License Nos. 08-03604-03
SNM-1446

Washington Hospital Center
ATTN: Edward Smith
Assistant Vice President/Operations
110 Irving Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20010

Dear Mr. Smith:

Subject: Routine Inspection Nos. 030-03125/93-001 and 030-01500/93-001

This letter refers to your November 1, 1993 correspondence, in response to our August 31, 1993 letter.

Thank you for the information that you provided of your corrective and preventive actions which were documented in your letter. Our request for more complete information on the most recent burial of a nuclear pacemaker was initiated because 1) the information provided during the 92-001 Inspection was not adequate and 2) the NRC is concerned about the lost or burial of six nuclear pacemakers within the past five years and the pattern of your apparent failure to exercise control over licensed material. As a result of your past losses of control of licensed materials as well as your, apparently ineffective, corrective actions since losses continue, we request additional clarification of your stated "further corrective actions" which you state include "a more vigilant correspondence with primary care physicians and relatives of the remaining nuclear pacemaker wearers." Please define "more vigilant correspondence." In the last reportable incident in which a nuclear pacemaker was buried, you indicated that you had not had contact with the patient's primary care physician; the primary care physician said that he had not seen the patient for several years. How do you propose to bridge the communications gap between the primary care physician and the patient? Also, you state that "you will continue to monitor use of patient's ID bracelets and cards. In your response, please explain how you propose to do this. Were the last six patients, whose pacemakers were lost or buried upon their demise, wearing ID bracelets or carrying ID cards at the time of death? Did you verify use at the time of your contact with them? Please explain how you plan to maintain an updated list of the patient's relatives. Also, please expand on any other conclusions that you reached which may be helpful in strengthening and maintaining your control over licensed material.

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Washington Hospital Center

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A response to this letter is required within 15 days of the date that you receive this letter.
Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Jenny M. Johansen, Chief
Medical Inspection Section
Division of Radiation Safety and
Safeguards

cc:

Public Document Room (PDR)
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)
District of Columbia

bcc:

Region I Docket Room (w/concurrences)

DRSS:RI
Darden/cmm

J.H.D.
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