NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Abbott Northwestern Hospital
Minneapolis, Minnesota

License No. 22-04588-01
Docket No. 030-02223;
Docket No. 030-00297

During an NRC inspection conducted on May 13, 1994, violations of NRC requirements were identified. In accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions," 10 CFR Part 2, Appendix C (1994), the violations are listed below:

1. License Condition 23.E. of License No. 22-04588-01 references the letter dated December 17, 1991.

   A. Item VI of the letter dated December 17, 1991, describes High Dose Rate Remote Afterloader timer accuracy tests that will be conducted. Item VI states, the accuracy of the timing device will be determined in two ways: (a) a stopwatch will be used to insure timer accuracy and (b) air ionization readings will be taken to determine the deviation from linearity for the device timer.

   Contrary to the above since September 8, 1992, the licensee has conducted High Dose Rate Remote Afterloader timer accuracy tests using the stopwatch accuracy and has not conducted air ionization readings to determine the deviation from linearity for the device timer.

   This is a Severity Level IV violation (Supplement VI).

   B. Item VI.B. of the letter dated December 17, 1991, states that the licensee will use a calibrated electrometer and ionization chamber with a manufacturer supplied calibration gig for source calibration, monthly and following each source change.

   Contrary to the above, since at least September 8, 1992, the licensee has used a method of source calibration other than the calibrated electrometer and ionization chamber and a manufacturer supplied calibration gig for dose calibration of iridium-192 High Dose Rate Remote Afterloader sources at installation and has not verified the source strength monthly. Specifically, a calibrated Atom Lab 44 Dose Calibrator was used for source calibration after each source exchange and prior to first patient use.

   This is a Severity Level IV violation (Supplement VI).

2. 10 CFR 35.70(b) requires that a licensee survey with a radiation detection survey instrument at least once each week all areas where radiopharmaceuticals or radiopharmaceutical waste is stored.

Contrary to the above, since at least August 20, 1992, the licensee did not survey weekly the therapy waste storage room an area where radiopharmaceutical waste is stored. Specifically, the licensee conducted and recorded the required surveys quarterly.

This is a Severity Level IV violation (Supplement VI).

Pursuant to the provisions of 10 CFR 2.201, Abbott Northwestern Hospital is hereby required to submit a written statement or explanation to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region III, 801 Warrenville Road, Lisle, Illinois, 60532-4351, within 30 days of the date of the letter transmitting this Notice of Violation (Notice). This reply should be clearly marked as a "Reply to a Notice of Violation" and should include for each violation: (1) the reason for the violation, or, if contested, the basis for disputing the violation, (2) the corrective steps that have been taken and the results achieved, (3) the corrective steps that will be taken to avoid further violations, and (4) the date when full compliance will be achieved. If an adequate reply is not received within the time specified in this Notice, an order or a demand for information may be issued as to why the license should not be modified, suspended, or revoked, or why such other action as may be proper should not be taken. Where good cause is shown, consideration will be given to extending the response time.

JUN 2 1994

Date

John D. Jones, Acting Chief
Nuclear Materials Inspection
Section 2