



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064

JUN 21 1994

Department of Veterans Affairs
Southern Region
ATTN: Richard P. Miller, Regional Director
1461 Lakeover Road
Jackson, Mississippi 39213

SUBJECT: RADIATION SAFETY AUDIT AT VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL CENTER,
HOUSTON, TEXAS (REFERENCE DOCKET 030-03255, LICENSE 42-00084-06,
EA 91-157)

This refers to your letter of March 15, 1994, which forwarded a report completed by Dr. Johnson Choppala documenting the findings of his audit of the radiation safety program at the Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC) in Houston, Texas. The audit was conducted in accordance with a Confirmatory Order Modifying License (Order) issued by the NRC on November 15, 1991.

We have reviewed the report and find that further information is needed in order for us to complete our review of the audit findings and to determine whether the VAMC has fully met the conditions of the Order. Specifically, the audit report did not provide sufficient information regarding the auditor's findings relative to program management and oversight. In accordance with information provided by the VAMC, the Order required, in part, that each audit include a thorough review of the management of the radiation safety program and communication processes relative to the program in order to evaluate whether the radiation safety officer (RSO) had been delegated sufficient authority and was provided adequate support by management to effectively fulfill his responsibilities. The audit report provided to the NRC Region IV office did not provide any details regarding these aspects of the licensee's radiation safety program.

Based upon a telephone conversation between Ms. Linda Kasner of this office and Dr. Johnson Choppala on June 13, 1994, it appears that Dr. Choppala's review of the VAMC radiation safety program did include an evaluation of the aforementioned issues; however, discussion of Dr. Choppala's conclusions regarding these issues was inadvertently omitted from his report. Therefore, we are requesting that Dr. Choppala provide a supplement to his initial audit report to include his conclusions regarding: (1) the management oversight of the radiation safety program; (2) communication processes between the RSO, users, and medical center management; and (3) the level of authority and support provided to the RSO relative to licensed activities. It is our understanding that Dr. Choppala will be absent from his office for the next few weeks; therefore, we are requesting that his response be provided to the NRC Region IV office within 30 days of the date of this letter.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

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Department of Veterans Affairs

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The response directed by this letter is not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, Pub. L. No. 96.511.

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Ms. Kasner at (817) 860-8213.

Sincerely,

for James M. Callan
L. J. Callan
Regional Administrator

cc:

Texas Radiation Control Program Director

Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Administration Medical Center
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Division of Nuclear Medicine
St. Louis, Missouri 63125

Department of Veterans Affairs
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Nuclear Medicine Service
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Department of Veterans Affairs

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bcc:
 DMB - Original (IE-07)
 LJCallan
 SJCollins
 RAScarano
 WLFisher
 CLCain
 FAWenslawski
 LLKasner
 GFSanborn, E0
 JLieberman, OE (7-H5)
 JEGlenn, NMSS/IMAB (T 8 F5)
 NMIB
 MIS System
 RIV Files (2)

*RIV:NMIB	*AC:NMIB	DD:DRSS	D:DRSS	
LLKasner	CLCain	RAScarano	SJCollins	
06/14/94	06/ /94	06/15/94	06/15/94	
DRA	RA			
JMMontgomery	LJCallan			
06/15/94	06/17/94			

*Previously concurred

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