



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III  
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD  
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

September 22, 1998

Fay Thompson, Ph.D.  
Director, Environmental Health and Safety  
University of Minnesota  
W168 Boynton Health Service  
410 Church Street, S.E.  
Minneapolis, MN 55455

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Dr. Thompson:

This refers to the special inspection conducted by Mr. John D. Jones of this office on August 26 through August 27, 1998, at the Lewis Hospital for Companion Animals, College of Veterinary Medicine located at the University of Minnesota. The inspection included a review of an event that occurred at the University's Minneapolis, Minnesota, facility on August 18, 1998, at 10:30 a.m. The purpose of the inspection was limited to a review of the circumstances, root and contributing causes, and the University's proposed corrective actions with regard to the failure to follow a required procedure for operation of the cobalt-60 teletherapy unit. The enclosed report presents the results of this inspection. At the conclusion of the inspection on August 31, 1998, the findings were discussed by telephone with Mr. Jerome Staiger.

Based on the results of this inspection, one Severity Level IV violation of 10 CFR 36.67(b)(1) was identified, failure of the technologist to inspect the entire radiation room to verify that no one else is in it prior to depressing the "acknowledge" switch on leaving the therapy room.

With respect to the violation, the inspection showed that action had been taken to correct the identified violation and to prevent recurrence. It is our understanding that as part of your corrective action, the survey acknowledge switch will be moved from its present location to a location inside the iodine-131 cat treatment room. Consequently, no reply to the violation is required and we have no further questions regarding this matter at this time.

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F. Thompson, Ph.D.

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosures, and your response (if you choose to provide one) will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

/s/ R. J. Caniano

Roy J. Caniano, Acting Director  
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Docket No. 030-19162  
License No. 22-00187-54

Enclosures: 1. Notice of Violation  
2. Inspection Report 030-19162/98001(DNMS)

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