



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**Veterans Health Administration**  
**National Radiation Safety Committee**  
**National Health Physics Program**  
**2200 Fort Roots Drive**  
**North Little Rock, AR 72114**

In Reply Refer To: 598/115HP/NLR

June 25, 2020

Bryan Parker  
Division of Nuclear Material Safety  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Region III  
2443 Warrenville Road, Suite 210  
Lisle, Illinois 60532-4352

Re: NRC License No. 03-23853-01VA; Report of Leaking Source

Dear Mr. Parker:

In accordance with 10 CFR 35.3067, I am forwarding the enclosed written report of a leaking sealed source. The report, dated June 24, 2020, was submitted to our office by VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, Los Angeles, California. The hospital is issued Permit Number 24-15235-03 under our NRC Master Materials License.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact Thomas E. Huston., Ph.D., CHP, at 501-454-7264, or you may reach me at 501-707-562-8374.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas E. Huston".

/for

Edwin M. Leidholdt, Jr., Ph.D., FACR  
Director, National Health Physics Program

Enclosure

CC: Document Control Desk  
Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852

**DEPARTMENT OF  
VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**Memorandum**

Date: June 24, 2020

From: Director (691/00) VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System

Subj: Leaking Cesium-137 Dose Calibrator Source

To: Director, VHA National Health Physics Program (NHPP) (115HP/NLR)

1. On June 23, 2020, we performed a leak test of cesium-137 dose calibrator vial source in accordance with 10 CFR 35.67. The test revealed the presence of more than 0.005 microcuries of removable contamination. The test sample was analyzed with a Berkeley Nucleonics Model SAM 940 radioisotope identifier to confirm the contamination is cesium-137. This memorandum serves as the written report required by 10 CFR 35.3067 for ultimate transmittal to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission within 5 days.

2. The following information is required by 10 CFR 35.3067:

- a. Sealed source model number: Eckert & Ziegler RV-137-200U
- b. Sealed source serial number: 1756-6-19
- c. Radionuclide: cesium-137
- d. Estimated activity as of June 23, 2020: 177.7 microcuries
- e. Leak test result: 0.0165 microcuries

3. In response to the elevated leak test, the following actions have been taken or are planned:

- a. The source was visually inspected where a 5 mm crack was identified in a void near the bottom of the vial (see attached picture).
- b. The sealed source was immediately withdrawn from use and secured within a plastic bag within its shielded container within another plastic bag.
- c. Contamination surveys using appropriate instrumentation and wipe tests were performed of all areas and instruments in which the source could have come in contact including the interior of the source shield; the dose calibrators; the tongs used to handle the source; the counter on which the dose calibrator sits; the adjacent floor; and the dose calibrator dippers. No contamination was identified.
- d. We will contact the manufacturer to aid in the determination of the cause for leakage.
- e. We will either transfer the source to the manufacturer for failure analysis or dispose of the source via a licensed radioactive waste broker.

f. In addition to leak testing our five additional similar sources, we visually inspected them for similar cracks and voids. None of the sources were leaking and none had cracks. Two sources had similar voiding near the bottoms of the vials. Those sources will be preemptively withdrawn from service and replaced.

4. If additional information is required, please contact Mark A. Sitek, MS, CHP, Radiation Safety Officer, at (310) 268-3993.

**Braverman, Steven** Digitally signed by  
Braverman, Steven  
Date: 2020.06.25  
08:45:04 -07'00'

Steven E. Braverman, MD

Attachment



Leaking Cs-137 dose calibrator source with a 5 mm crack and void area

## Song, Taehoon

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**From:** Tomczak, Tammy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 30, 2020 1:15 PM  
**To:** Song, Taehoon; Pavon, Sandy  
**Subject:** FW: Department of Veterans Affairs correspondence  
**Attachments:** [External\_Sender] VA Grater Los Angeles Healthcare System, Los Angeles, CA - Leaking Sealed Source. ; Leaking source rpt 665.pdf

Hi Tae and Sandy,

Bryan said that there is a page missing from ML20182A465. Can you please replace ML20182A465 with what Bryan has attached? He has also attached a 665 so it can be final profiled in ADAMS according to his SUNSI review.

Thank you!!!!  
Tammy

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**From:** Parker, Bryan <Bryan.Parker@nrc.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 30, 2020 1:01 PM  
**To:** Tomczak, Tammy <Tammy.Tomczak@nrc.gov>  
**Cc:** Orlikowski, Robert <Robert.Orlikowski@nrc.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Department of Veterans Affairs correspondence

Hey Tammy,

That report should just be filed in ADAMS. The version you sent me, though, is missing a page. Can you please have that document replaced with the attached version?

I have attached a 665 as well.

Let me know if there are any questions.

Thanks.  
Bryan

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**From:** Tomczak, Tammy <[Tammy.Tomczak@nrc.gov](mailto:Tammy.Tomczak@nrc.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 30, 2020 12:42 PM  
**To:** Parker, Bryan <[Bryan.Parker@nrc.gov](mailto:Bryan.Parker@nrc.gov)>  
**Subject:** Department of Veterans Affairs correspondence  
**Importance:** High

Hi Bryan,

I'm not really sure what to do with this document. I don't think it would be processed into WBL as a notification. At the very least, we probably need to update the profile in ADAMS.

Is there anything we need to do? And, can you please do a SUNSI review on the document?

Please let me know.

Thanks,  
Tammy

[View ADAMS Properties ML20182A465](#)

[Open ADAMS Document \(Dept. of Veterans Affairs\)](#)