

December 10, 1997

Docket No. 030-14526

License No. 37-00062-07

Mr. Earl F. Falast, Director  
Veterans Administration Medical Center  
University and Woodland Avenue  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104

SUBJECT: INSPECTION NO. 97-001

Dear Mr. Falast:

During the period from July 9 thru October 20, 1997, Mrs. Teresa Hall Darden and other inspectors of this office conducted a safety inspection at the above location of activities authorized by the above listed NRC license. The inspection was an examination of your licensed activities as they relate to radiation safety and to compliance with the Commission's regulations and the license conditions. The inspection consisted of observations by the inspector, interviews with personnel, and a selective examination of representative records. The findings of the inspection were discussed: with Dr. George McNeal and other members of your staff on July 30, 1997; with you and Mr. Philip Hatsis by telephone on September 22, 1997; and with Ms. Margaret O'Shea and Mr. Philip Hatsis on October 20, 1997, at the conclusion of the inspection.

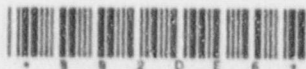
Based on the results of this inspection, it appears that your activities were not conducted in full compliance with NRC requirements. A Notice of Violation is enclosed and categorizes each violation by severity level in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions," (Enforcement Policy), NUREG 1600. You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. In your response, you should document the specific actions taken and any additional actions you plan to prevent recurrence. Your response may reference or include previous docketed correspondence, if the correspondence adequately addresses the required response. After reviewing your response to this Notice, including your proposed corrective actions and the results of future inspections, the NRC will determine whether further NRC enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with NRC regulatory requirements.

Effectiveness of the Radiation Safety Committee (RSC) and Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) program oversight remain as unresolved matters pending further NRC review of this area. The inspector noted that communications problems among staff, as identified during inspection 96-001, continue at this facility. However, the potential impact of communications problems on licensed activities continues to undergo further NRC review.

050016

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

9801050267 971210  
PDR ADOCK 03014526  
C PDR



IE 07  
RETURN ORIGINAL TO  
REGION I

NRC Management has scheduled a tour of your facility for observations and discussions with various personnel on December 15, 1997. On December 18, 1997 another site visit has been scheduled to discuss the current status of your facility.

Item D in the Notice of Violation enclosed with this letter was identified during a previous inspection of your licensed activities and documented in a Notice of Violation enclosed with our letter dated September 11, 1997. From this inspection, it appears that your corrective actions were not effective since this item has recurred. Recurrent and uncorrected violations are given additional weight in the consideration and selection of appropriate enforcement action. Therefore, in your response to this letter, you should give particular attention to those actions taken or planned to ensure that identified items of noncompliance will be completely corrected and will not recur.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter and your reply will be placed in the Public Document Room (PDR). To the extent possible, your response should not include any personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information so that it can be placed in the PDR without redaction. However, if you find it necessary to include such information, you should clearly indicate the specific information that you desire not to be placed in the PDR, and provide the legal basis to support your request for withholding the information from the public.

Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

A. Randolph Blough, Director  
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Docket No.: 030-14526  
License No.: 37-00062-07

Enclosure:  
Notice of Violation

cc w/enclosure:  
Radiation Safety Officer, VA Philadelphia

Robert L. Jones, M.D.  
Regional Director  
Network Director (10N4)  
VA Medical Center  
7180 Highland Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206-1297

Joseph R. Wissing  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
Health Physics Programs (115HP)  
915 North Grand Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63106

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



Distribution: w/encl

PUBLIC

Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)

Region I Docket Room (w/concurrences)

D. J. Holody, RI

DOCUMENT NAME:S:\PENDING\03014526.LT2

To receive a copy of this document, indicate in the box: "C" = Copy w/o attach/encl "E" = Copy w/ attach/encl "N" = No copy

OFFICE	DNMS/RI	N	DNMS/RI		DNMS/RI			
NAME	THDARDEN <i>JH</i>		MMSHANBAKY <i>ms</i>		ARBLOUGH <i>AS</i>			
DATE	12/05/97		12/5/97		12/ /97			