



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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

December 31, 1997

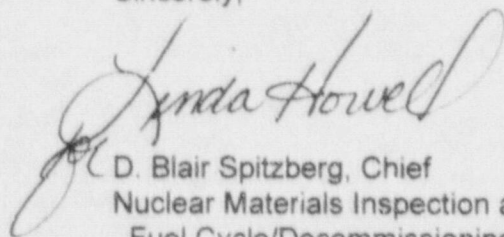
Lynn S. Carrier
Acting Executive Director
Department of Veterans Affairs
Medical Center, West Los Angeles
11301 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90073

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO NRC INSPECTION REPORT 030-22280/97-01 AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Carrier:

Thank you for your letter received by this office on December 24, 1997, in response to our letter and Notice of Violation dated November 21, 1997. We have reviewed your reply and find it responsive to the concerns raised in our Notice of Violation. We will review the implementation of your corrective actions during a future inspection to determine that full compliance has been achieved and will be maintained.

Sincerely,



D. Blair Spitzberg, Chief
Nuclear Materials Inspection and
Fuel Cycle/Decommissioning Branch

Docket No.: 030-22280
License No.: 04-00181-12

cc w/copy of ltr dtd 12/24/97
California Radiation Control Program Director



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PDR ADOCK 03022280
C PDR

Department of Veterans Affairs
Medical Center West Los Angeles

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bcc to DCD w/copy of ltr dated 12/24/97: (IE07)

bcc distrib. by RIV w/copy of ltr dated 12/24/97:

Regional Administrator

LLHowell

DBSpitzberg

CLCain

MRShaffer

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Medical Center
West Los Angeles
11301 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles CA 90073

snapper
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RECEIVE
DEC 24 1997
Received by FAX
on 12/22/97

In Reply Refer To: (691/11E)

Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Ross A. Scarano, Director
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400
Arlington, Tx 7601-8464

Dear Mr. Scarano:

Reply to Notice of Violation

This reply is in response to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission inspection report No. 0303-2280/97-01. We concur with this report's stated reasons for the violation.

We have reviewed the facts of this report with all appropriate personnel, and have taken the following corrective steps to address the concerns and issues which emerged from this violation:

1. We have increased therapist staffing levels in our Radiation Therapy Department, which we anticipate will resolve the staffing issue.
2. Radiation Therapy Quality Management Program (RTQMP) was updated on November 7, 1997. It includes detailed treatment procedures regarding the patient's port and/or simulation films. It instructs the operator performing the therapy to utilize these procedures to verify the proper site location prior to initiating the patient's treatment. Additionally, department personnel have reviewed and understand the RTQMP policy. Specific attention was given to that section of the policy pertaining to the appropriate conditions under which patient treatments are performed. When ambiguous conditions or instructions are present, the operators have been instructed to obtain guidance from supervisors or other appropriate personnel prior to administering the treatment.
3. Our third corrective action is a new "tattoo protocol". We anticipate implementing it by February 21, 1998 which will complete our comprehensive action regarding this violation.
4. The first two corrective actions taken regarding the operation of the Cobalt Teletherapy Unit appear to be favorable. Upon completion of our comprehensive action (February 21, 1998), our Radiation Therapy staff will begin monitoring the results as a whole to ensure we deliver the highest quality care.

If you have any questions, please contact Brad Krutoff (310)478-3711, ext. 49030; or Paul McIntyre (310)268-3288.

Sincerely yours,

Lynn S. Carrier
LYNN S. CARRIER
Acting Executive Director

cc:

Edwin Leidholdt, Jr. Ph.D.
VA National Health Physics Program
301 Howard Street, Suite 700
San Francisco, CA 94105

IE07

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Department of Veterans Affairs
Medical Center West Los Angeles

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