



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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

March 26, 1999

Mr. Robert E. Thilo, Assistant Director  
Department of Veterans Administration  
John L. McClellan Memorial Veterans Hospital  
4300 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 030-01212/98-01 AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Thilo:

On December 7-8, 1998, the NRC concluded an inspection of licensed activities performed at your Little Rock, Arkansas facilities. At the conclusion of the on-site portion of this inspection on December 8, 1998, an exit briefing was conducted with Mr. Robert Shimp and other members of your staff to discuss the inspection findings. Subsequent to the site visit, on January 8, 1999, a telephonic exit briefing was conducted between the inspector and you. On March 26, 1999, another exit briefing was conducted between your radiation safety officer and the inspector.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that four violations of NRC requirements have occurred. These violations involved failures to: (1) wear extremity dosimetry, (2) wear gloves when handling licensed material, (3) perform general area and personal radiation surveys, and (4) maintain radiation dose rates below 2 millirem per hour in an unrestricted area.

These violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice). You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. For your consideration and convenience, NRC Information Notice 96-28, "SUGGESTED GUIDANCE RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CORRECTIVE ACTION," is enclosed. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

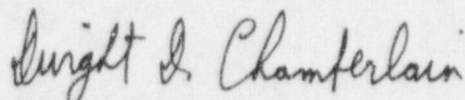
The inspection also revealed an additional item of concern. Four individuals were interviewed and asked to demonstrate the use of their radiation survey instruments. Although, the degree of knowledge varied with the individual none were fully competent in the use of radiation survey instruments. The inadequacies included not knowing how to properly check battery strength, proper use of check source and the proper method to survey an area for residual contamination. Although all these individuals had received training in the use of radiation survey instruments it appears that the training was less than fully successful. In your response to the enclosed Notice, please include a description of your actions to ensure effective training in this area.

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, Enclosure 1, and your response will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

Should you have any questions concerning this inspection please contact Emilio M. Garcia at (530) 756-8825 or Elmo E. Collins at (817) 860-8291.

Sincerely,



Dwight D. Chamberlain, Director  
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Docket No.: 030-01212  
License No.: 03-01082-01

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Violation
2. NRC Information Notice 96-28

cc w/Enclosure 1 only:  
Arkansas Radiation Control Program Director

Dr. Milton Gross  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
Nuclear Medicine Program  
24 Frank Loyd Wright Drive  
Lobby M, P.O. Box 505  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105

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