



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System  
11301 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles CA 90073

FEB 23 1999

In Reply Refer To:

- Mr. Ellis W. Merschoff  
Regional Administrator  
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region IV  
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400  
Arlington, Texas, 76001-8064

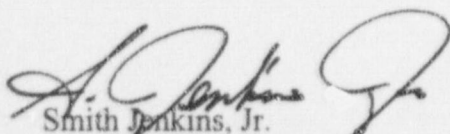
**Reply to a Notice of Violation**

Dear Mr. Merschoff:

This reply is in response to your letter dated October 7, 1998 relative to Violation E of the NRC inspection conducted on April 21-24, 1998. All personnel from outside services will be trained in the requirements of NRC regulations, license conditions and radiation safety procedures used in the Hospital, and approved before they are permitted to use byproduct material. In late October and early November of 1998, three of Quality Imaging Service's (QIS) technologists were brought into our Nuclear Medical Department for training. They were also asked to demonstrate their techniques prior to approval by the Nuclear Medicine Department's Supervisory Technologist. This procedure was approved by our RSO. Approved outside technologists must complete all required clinical QA and safety procedures and must document this on a checklist prepared by the RSO. We will also call the outside technologists back annually for radiation safety retraining.

VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (VAGLAHS) Nuclear Medicine residents who are on call are fully trained in radiation safety procedures as described in NRC regulations and license conditions, and have been approved by the clinical staff and RSO. The Nuclear Medicine resident opens the Department for QIS personnel and observes the procedures for receipt and dispensing of the radiopharmaceuticals as well as the imaging procedure itself. He/She also monitors the surveys that are performed after the study is completed. A signature block will be added to the checklist form for the resident's signature to attest that he/she has observed and reviewed the use of byproduct material by QIS personnel. The checklists will be reviewed quarterly by the RSO as a part of the ALARA audit. The RSO or a senior radiation safety staff member will personally audit emergency scan procedures at least annually.

Sincerely,

  
Smith Jenkins, Jr.  
Acting Chief Executive Officer

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C PDR

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