

NOV 8 1990

License No.: 03-01082-01
Docket No.: 30-01212/90-01

Veterans Administration Medical Center
John L. McClellan Memorial Hospital
ATTN: Robert Patton
Hospital Director
4300 West 7th Street
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

Gentlemen:

This refers to the routine, unannounced radiation safety inspection conducted by Ms. L. L. Kasner of this office on September 25-28, 1990, of the activities authorized by NRC Byproduct Material License No. 03-01082-01, and to the discussion of our findings held by the inspector with members of the administrative staff and the radiation safety officer (RSO) at the conclusion of the inspection.

The inspection was an examination of the activities conducted under the license as they relate to radiation safety and to compliance with the Commission's rules and regulations and the conditions of the license. The inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews of personnel, independent measurements, and observations by the inspector.

During this inspection, certain of your activities were found not to be conducted in full compliance with NRC requirements. Consequently, you are required to respond to this matter in writing, in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.201 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations. Your response should be based on the specifics contained in the Notice of Violation enclosed with this letter. In preparing your response, please refer to the instructions contained in the enclosed Notice.

The inspector observed that many aspects of the program were associated with well developed procedures and corresponding documentation and that generally, the program incorporated an adequate number of internal audits to ensure that activities were conducted in accordance with license conditions and NRC requirements. Also notable was the RSO's involvement in directing program activities. The inspector noted that the RSO had been granted, and exercised, a level of authority characterized by the stringent management controls observed in many aspects of the radiation safety program.

During the inspection, the inspector also reviewed several procedural revisions which will be implemented with renewal of the license in January 1991. These changes are primarily related to requirements which were implemented with the

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revision of 10 CFR Part 35 and from which you were previously exempt under the provisions described in § 35.999.

The inspector noted that one individual had been designated the responsibility for conducting radiation surveys and instrument calibrations. While this individual had met the current qualification requirements regarding these specific activities, both the size of the program and the increased frequency at which these tasks must be performed under the current version of 10 CFR Part 35 and future revisions of the license may require that you involve a greater number of your staff in conducting these activities. This and similar resource issues should be given further consideration by the RSO and management to ensure that you will be able to meet future program requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the Commission's regulations, a copy of this letter, the enclosures, and your response to this letter will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

The response directed by this letter and the accompanying Notice is not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, PL 96-511.

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

A. B. BEACH

A. Bill Beach, Director
Division of Radiation Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure:

Appendix - Notice of Violation

cc:

James W. Fletcher, M.D.
Director, Nuclear Medicine Service (115)
Veterans Administration
Washington, D.C. 20420

Arkansas Radiation Control Program Director

Veterans Administration Medical
Center

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bcc:

DMB - Original (IE-07)

RD Martin

AB Beach

LA Yandell

MRodriguez, OC/LFDCB (4503)

*WLFisher

*CLCain

*LLKasner

*NMSIS

*MIS System

*RIV Files (2)

*RSTS Operator

*REHall, URFO

GCant, OE

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