



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

REGION I
2100 RENAISSANCE BLVD., SUITE 100
KING OF PRUSSIA, PA 19406-2713

November 18, 2021

EA-21-156

Tim Martin, Chief Operating Officer
Cabell Huntington Hospital
1340 Hal Greer Boulevard
Huntington, WV 25701-0195

SUBJECT: CONFIRMATORY ACTION LETTER – CABELL HUNTINGTON HOSPITAL

Dear Mr. Martin:

On October 23, 2021, Mr. James Norweck, your Radiation Safety Officer, submitted a letter with a written report in accordance with 10 CFR 20.2203 regarding the exceedance of an exposure limit in 10 CFR 20.1201, by a user authorized under license 47-00404-02. The written report outlined your investigation and proposed corrective actions, which included a management supported voluntary cease work order for NRC licensed activities. The precipitating event involved an authorized user who received a cumulative estimated occupational dose of 122 rem shallow-dose equivalent to an extremity, which is greater than the regulatory limit, found in 10 CFR 20.1201, that being an annual extremity dose limit of 50 rem. Your letter documented an estimated dose of 0.0183 rem to the extremities from the authorized user's involvement in NRC regulated activities with radioactive material and 121.538 rem from the authorized user's involvement in State regulated activities with radiation.

On October 29, 2021, Ms. Tamara Bloomer, Deputy Director, Division of Radiological Safety and Security, and other members of my staff contacted you to discuss the corrective actions surrounding the individual's past and current occupational exposure. During this conversation, you provided us a summary of your investigation and informed us of the corrective actions taken or planned to address the overexposure event. Additionally, you confirmed our understanding of the timeline of relevant events. Based on that conversation, it is our understanding that you have taken or will take the actions as specified below.

1. The authorized user referenced in your October 23, 2021, letter (ML21312A459)¹, who immediately ceased to work with NRC licensed materials on September 23, 2021 (after receiving a cumulative estimated occupational dose of 122 rem shallow-dose equivalent to an extremity thus far in 2021), has voluntarily, since that date, committed to not work with NRC licensed materials for the remainder of the calendar year (*i.e.*, until after December 31, 2021).
2. You have immediately implemented the corrective actions detailed in the letter dated October 23, 2021. These included:
 - a. For the aforementioned authorized user:
 - i. Review and confirmation by the authorized user of your protocols for radiation safety, including best practices for wearing dosimetry and best

¹ Designation in parentheses refers to an Agency-wide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) accession number. Documents referenced in this letter are publicly-available using the accession number in ADAMS.

- practices involving computed tomography (CT)-guided interventional and fluoroscopy procedures;
- ii. Re-education of the authorized user on the importance of continuing to wear current protective equipment including lead apron, thyroid shield, and protective glasses when using state-controlled radiation devices; and,
 - iii. Limiting of further extremity exposure for the authorized user during CT-guided interventional and fluoroscopy procedures, through the use of time, distance, and shielding and, whenever possible, utilizing shielded surgical gloves and ceiling mounted shields during patient positioning.
- b. For your entire staff:
- i. Implementation of a time-out procedure to ensure personnel entering a microsphere treatment room are wearing dosimetry; and,
 - ii. Posting of radiation stickers on interventional CT scanners cautioning users to not place hands in or near the radiation beam.

Pursuant to Section 182 of the Atomic Energy Act, 42 U.S.C. 2232, you are required to: (1) notify me immediately if your understanding differs from that set forth above; (2) notify me if for any reason you have not completed the actions stated above and advise me in writing of your modified schedule; and (3) notify me in writing when you have completed the actions set forth in this Confirmatory Action Letter. Issuance of this Confirmatory Action Letter does not preclude issuance of an order formalizing the above commitments or requiring other actions on the part of the licensee, nor does it preclude the NRC from taking enforcement action for violations of NRC requirements that may have prompted the issuance of this letter. In addition, failure to take the actions addressed in this Confirmatory Action Letter may result in an appropriate enforcement action.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the NRC's document system (ADAMS), accessible from the NRC web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To the extent possible, your responses should not include any personal privacy information. However, due to the nature of the actions, if personal privacy information is necessary to provide an acceptable response to this letter, please mark your entire response Personal-Privacy Information in accordance with 10 CFR 2.390(a) and follow the instructions for withholding in 10 CFR 2.390(b).

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Anne DeFrancisco, Chief, Medical and Licensing Assistance Branch, at 610-337-5078.

Sincerely,

David C. Lew
Regional Administrator
Region I

Docket No. 030-03370
License No. 47-00404-02

cc: State of West Virginia

