



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION III
2443 WARRENVILLE RD. SUITE 210
LISLE, IL 60532-4352

September 17, 2022

Edwin M. Leidholdt, Ph.D. Director
National Health Physics Program (115 HP/NLR)
Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
2200 Fort Roots Drive
Building 101
North Little Rock, AR 72114

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 03034325/2022012(DNMS) – VA MEDICAL
CENTER, COLUMBUS, OHIO

Dear Dr. Leidholdt:

On August 4, 2022, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) conducted a routine inspection at the VA Medical Center, Columbus, Ohio. The inspection was limited to a review of activities authorized under Permit Number 34-00757-01. The inspector conducted an exit meeting with the management and staff at the facility at the completion of the inspection.

The inspection was an examination of activities conducted under the Permit as they relate to radiation safety and to compliance with the Commission's rules and regulations. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, independent measurements, and observation of activities in progress. Within the scope of the inspection no violations of NRC requirements were identified; therefore, no response to this letter or the enclosed NRC Form 591M is required.

In accordance with Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 2.390 of the NRC's "rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS, accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>).

Should you have any questions concerning this inspection or the enclosed report, please contact Bryan Parker of my staff at 678-828-7050.

Sincerely,

Michael M.
LaFranzo

 Digitally signed by Michael M.
LaFranzo
Date: 2022.09.17 14:18:48
-05'00'

Michael LaFranzo, Acting Chief
Materials Licensing Branch
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Docket No. 030-34325
License No. 03-23853-01VA
Permit No. 34-00757-01

Enclosure:
IR 03034325/2022012



Materials Inspection Report

1. Licensee/Location Inspected: Department of Veterans Affairs Under Secretary of Health Washington, D.C. 20420 Location Inspected: Columbus, OH Report Number(s) 2022-012	2. NRC/Regional Office Region III U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 2443 Warrenville Road, Suite 210 Lisle, IL 60532-4352
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3. Docket Number(s) 030-34325	4. License Number(s) 03-23853-01VA	5. Date(s) of Inspection August 4, 2022
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LICENSEE:
 The inspection was an examination of the activities conducted under your license as they relate to radiation safety and to compliance with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) rules and regulations and the conditions of your license. The inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observations by the inspector. The inspection findings are as follows:

1. Based on the inspection findings, no violations were identified.

2. Previous violation(s) closed.

3. During this inspection, certain of your activities, as described below and/or attached, were in violation of NRC requirements, and were assessed at Severity Level IV, in accordance with the NRC Enforcement Policy.

A. The violation(s), specifically described to you by the inspector as non-cited violations, are not being cited because they were self-identified, non-repetitive, corrective action was or is being taken, and the remaining criteria in the NRC Enforcement Policy were satisfied.
 (Non-cited violation(s) was/were discussed involving the following requirement(s))

B. The following violation(s) is/are being cited in accordance with NRC Enforcement Policy. This form is a NOTICE OF VIOLATION, which may be subject to posting in accordance with 10 CFR 19.11.
 (Violations and Corrective Actions)

Statement of Corrective Actions

I hereby state that, within 30 days, the actions described by me to the Inspector will be taken to correct the violations identified. This statement of corrective actions is made in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 2.201 (corrective steps already taken, corrective steps which will be taken, date when full compliance will be achieved). I understand that no further written response to NRC will be required, unless specifically requested.

TITLE	PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE AND DATE
LICENSEE'S REPRESENTATIVE		
NRC INSPECTOR	Ryan Craffey	 <small>Digitally signed by Ryan J. Craffey Date: 2022.08.08 08:57:41 -04'00'</small>
BRANCH CHIEF	Michael LaFranzo	Michael M. LaFranzo <small>Digitally signed by Michael M. LaFranzo Date: 2022.09.17 14:15:36 -05'00'</small>



Materials Inspection Record

1. Licensee Name: Department of Veterans Affairs		2. Docket Number(s): 030-34325		3. License Number(s) 03-23853-01VA	
4. Report Number(s): 2022-012			5. Date(s) of Inspection: August 4, 2022		
6. Inspector(s): Ryan Craffey		7. Program Code(s): 03614	8. Priority: 2	9. Inspection Guidance Used: IP 87130	
10. Licensee Contact Name(s): Clint Abell - Program Manager Julie Rutledge, MD - RSO		11. Licensee E-mail Address: clinton.abell@va.gov julie.rutledge2@va.gov		12. Licensee Telephone Number(s): 501-708-5013 614-388-7388	
13. Inspection Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Initial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Routine <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Announced <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Routine <input type="checkbox"/> Unannounced		14. Locations Inspected: <input type="checkbox"/> Main Office <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Field Office <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Job Site <input type="checkbox"/> Remote		15. Next Inspection Date (MM/DD/YYYY): No Change <input type="checkbox"/> Normal <input type="checkbox"/> Extended <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No change	

16. Scope and Observations:

The Chalmers P. Wylie Ambulatory Care Center in Columbus, Ohio was authorized by VA MML Permit No. 34-00757-01 to use diagnostic radiopharmaceuticals. At the time of the inspection, two full-time nuclear medicine technologists performed 2-8 diagnostic administrations each weekday using unit and doses from a radiopharmacy in the Columbus metro area. Permitted activities were overseen by the Chief of Radiology, assisted by a medical physics consultant who performed independent quarterly audits of the program. The permittee also maintained an RSC, which met quarterly.

The inspector toured the Ambulatory Care Center. All areas were adequately posted, and all licensed material was adequately secured. Independent and confirmatory surveys in the department found no residual contamination or exposures to members of the public in excess of regulatory limits. The permittee's survey instruments were calibrated, operable and responded appropriately to radiation fields present at the facility. The inspector observed the administration of a bone scan and a cardiac stress tests using Tc-99m, dose calibrator constancy and linearity checks, as well as demonstrations of area surveys and the receipt of packages containing licensed material, and noted the use of adequate ALARA practices throughout. The inspector discussed handling of radioactive contamination and waste with the technologists, and verified that all of the permittee's sealed sources on its most recent physical inventory were present and accounted for. The staff were knowledgeable of radiation protection principles and regulatory requirements, and wore appropriate dosimetry as required.

The inspector reviewed a selection of the permittee's records, including the consultant's quarterly audits, instrument quality control records, sealed source inventory and leak test documentation, annual ALARA reviews, RSC meeting minutes, and personnel dosimetry reports, which documented occupational exposures well below regulatory limits.

No violations of NRC regulations were identified as a result of this inspection. The inspector held an exit meeting with the RSO immediately following the inspection.