



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
Veterans Health Administration  
National Health Physics Program  
2200 Fort Roots Drive  
North Little Rock, AR 72114**

**JAN 10 2012**

In Reply Refer To: 598/115HP/NLR

Kevin G. Null  
Division of Nuclear Material Safety  
Region III, Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)  
2443 Warrenville Road, Suite 210  
Lisle, Illinois 60532-4352

Re: Reply to NRC INSPECTION REPORT 030-34325/11-34(DNMS)

Dear Mr. Null:

I am responding to referenced inspection report dated December 20, 2011, for an NRC inspection at the VA Medical Center, Chillicothe, Ohio. This facility has a permit under NRC License 03-23853-01VA. The report had one concern related to use of radioactive materials.

In response, I am enclosing a memorandum from the facility dated January 6, 2012, to address the concern. I reviewed the response and endorse the corrective actions.

I will evaluate implementation of facility actions during our next routine core inspection.

Please contact me if you have any questions or comments about this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Williams", is located below the "Sincerely," text.

Gary E. Williams  
Director, National Health Physics Program

Enclosure

RECEIVED JAN 11 2012

# Department of Veterans Affairs

## Memorandum

**Date:** January 6, 2012

**From:** Medical Center Director (538/114), VA Medical Center, Chillicothe, OH

**Subj:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Inspection Report 030-34325/11-34

**To:** Director, VHA National Health Physics Program (115HP/NLR)

1. We are responding to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) inspection report dated December 20, 2011, of the Radiation Safety Program at the Chillicothe VA Medical Center performed on December 1, 2011. The NRC inspection report required a written response regarding actions taken to ensure procedures are followed in response to a triggered waste storage facility portal alarm.

2. A Radiation Safety Committee (RSC) meeting was held on December 7, 2011. In response to the portal alarm response issue identified during the NRC inspection, the RSC recommended two corrective actions that included modifications to the alarm system itself and retraining of staff regarding waste disposal procedures.

3. In response to the actual alarm system, we have installed an enhanced new visual alarm that ensures personnel cannot miss any low-level radioactive waste alarms. Installation of the enhanced visual alarm was completed on December 8, 2011.

4. In response to the training of staff, we have implemented refresher training for all applicable Environmental Management personnel. This refresher training has placed an emphasis on the required actions needed after activation of the radiation alarm in the storage facility. Retraining will be completed by January 31, 2012.

5. If any additional information is required, please contact our Radiation Safety Officer, Chris Rauf, at (513) 475-6319.



JEFFREY T. GERING, FACHE