



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

REGION III
2443 WARRENVILLE ROAD, SUITE 210
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4352

May 30, 2012

Mr. Gary Williams, Director
National Health Physics Program (115 HP/NLR)
Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
2200 Fort Roots Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72114

**SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 030-34325/12-017(DNMS) – VA NORTHERN
INDIANA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, FORT WAYNE, INDIANA**

Dear Mr. Williams:

On May 7, 2012, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) conducted a routine inspection at VA Northern Indiana Health Care System, Fort Wayne, Indiana. The inspection was limited to a review of activities authorized under Permit Number 13-11983-01. The inspector conducted an exit briefing 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.

In accordance with Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations Section 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 from 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>.

G. Williams

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Should you have any questions concerning this inspection or the enclosed report, please contact Kevin Null of my staff at 630-829-9854.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia J. Pelke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Patricia" being more prominent than the last name "Pelke".

Patricia J. Pelke, Chief
Materials Licensing Branch
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Docket No. 030-34325
License No. 03-23853-01VA
Permit No. 13-11983-01

Enclosure:
Inspection Report No. 030-34325/12-017(DNMS)

G. Williams

-2-

Should you have any questions concerning this inspection or the enclosed report, please contact Kevin Null of my staff at 630-829-9854.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Patricia J. Pelke, Chief
Materials Licensing Branch
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Docket No. 030-34325
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*See previous concurrence

ADAMS Accession Number:

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OFFICE	RIII DNMS	E	RIII DNMS		RIII		RIII	
NAME	KGNull: jm*KGN		PJPelke PJP					
DATE	05/25/12		05/30/12					

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT AND COMPLIANCE INSPECTION

1. LICENSEE/LOCATION INSPECTED:

Department of Veterans Affairs
Under Secretary for Health
Washington, D.C.
Loc: VA Northern Indiana Health Care System, Fort Wayne IN

REPORT NUMBER(S) 12-017

2. NRC/REGIONAL OFFICE

Region III
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
2443 Warrenville Road, Suite 210
Lisle, IL 60532-4352

3. DOCKET NUMBER(S)

030-34325

4. LICENSE NUMBER(S)

03-23853-01VA

5. DATE(S) OF INSPECTION

05/07/2012

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. 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, and corrective action was or is being taken, and the remaining criteria in the NRC Enforcement Policy, to exercise discretion, were satisfied.

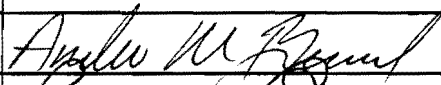
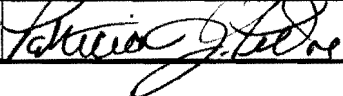
Non-cited violation(s) were discussed involving the following requirement(s):

- ☐ 4. During this inspection, certain of your activities, as described below and/or attached, were in violation of NRC requirements and 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	DATE
LICENSEE'S REPRESENTATIVE			
NRC INSPECTOR	Andrew Bramnik		5/30/12
BRANCH CHIEF	Patricia J. Pelke		5/24/12

Docket File Information

SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT AND COMPLIANCE INSPECTION

1. LICENSEE/LOCATION INSPECTED: Department of Veterans Affairs Under Secretary for Health Washington, D.C. Loc: VA Northern Indiana Health Care System, Fort Wayne IN REPORT NUMBER(S) 12-017	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 05/07/2012
6. INSPECTION PROCEDURES USED 87130	7. INSPECTION FOCUS AREAS 03.01-03.07	

SUPPLEMENTAL INSPECTION INFORMATION

1. PROGRAM CODE(S) 02121	2. PRIORITY 5	3. LICENSEE CONTACT Gary Williams	4. TELEPHONE NUMBER (501) 257-1572
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☐ Main Office Inspection Next Inspection Date: _____

☒ Field Office Inspection VA Northern IN Health Care Sys, Ft Wayne, IN

☐ Temporary Job Site Inspection _____

PROGRAM SCOPE

VA Northern Indiana Health Care System in Fort Wayne, Indiana, is a Veterans Affairs (VA) facility authorized under a Veterans Health Administration permit for medical use. The Department of VA is authorized to issue permits to VA facilities under the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Master Materials License No. 03-23853-01VA. The permittee, VA Northern Indiana Health Care System, is authorized to possess and utilize licensed materials under Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Sections 35.100 and 35.200. The permit authorizes possession and use of byproduct material at the permittee's facility located at 2121 Lake Avenue, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Two nuclear medicine technologists at the facility performed approximately ten diagnostic procedures daily, Monday through Friday. The permittee obtained unit doses of byproduct material and did not use bulk doses or molybdenum/technetium generators. The permittee performed primarily cardiac and bone scans, and was not authorized to administer therapeutic doses of byproduct material.

PERFORMANCE OBSERVATIONS

Interviews of available staff revealed an adequate level of understanding of emergency and material handling procedures and techniques. The permittee successfully described or demonstrated dose calibrator constancy checks, daily surveys, and waste handling and disposal procedures. The inspector confirmed that these activities were successfully completed by reviewing selected records. A contract physicist performed quarterly program audits that were adequate to oversee the program and also served as the permittee Radiation Safety Officer.

The inspector observed a technologist demonstrate incoming package receipt surveys by wiping the exterior and interior of a package with a single wipe sample. The technologist stated that he would conduct additional wipes to assess the package if contamination greater than the regulatory limit was discovered on the initial wipe sample; but that he would unpack and use the doses without concern if no contamination was found during the initial or subsequent wipes. The inspector informed the permittee's staff and management that this could result in missed opportunities to identify contamination if radioactive material was cleaned-off by the initial wipe sample. In that instance, the technologist would not know to call the final shipping carrier, the pharmacy, and the NRC as required. A records review did not identify any instances of contamination on the technologist's initial wipe samples greater than the limit.
(continued on Part 2)

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(Continued)

(continued from Part 3)

The inspector also observed food and drink items in rooms where byproduct material may be used or stored. Specifically, the inspector identified bottles of soda and wrapped candies in an imaging room adjacent to the hot lab, as well as fountain drinks in the stress lab. During the inspection, an individual was eating her lunch at a desk located in the stress lab. No radioactive materials were used or stored in either area during the inspection; however, the technologist informed the inspector that unit doses of technetium-99m may have been administered in the stress lab earlier that day. The facility staff were reminded of internal VA procedures concerning the storage of food or drink items in patient care areas by the National Health Physics Program manager accompanying the NRC inspector (Joe Wissing).

Byproduct material was adequately secured and not readily accessible to members of the general public. The permittee possessed a radiation survey meter that was calibrated, operational, and performed comparably to readings from an NRC survey meter. Personal whole body and extremity dosimetry badges were observed being worn by the staff, and records did not indicate doses in excess of 10 CFR Part 20 limits. Dosimetry records indicated that the highest annual whole body and extremity readings since 2009 were 462 mrem and 628 mrem, respectively.

No violations of NRC requirements were identified during this inspection.