



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

REGION III  
2443 WARRENVILLE RD. SUITE 210  
LISLE, IL 60532-4352  
August 22, 2014

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 03034325/2014006(DNMS) – CHARLES  
GEORGE VA MEDICAL CENTER, ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

Dear Mr. Williams:

On July 31, 2014, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) conducted a routine inspection at the Charles George VA Medical Center, Asheville, North Carolina. The inspection was limited to a review of activities authorized under Permit Number 32-05830-01. 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.

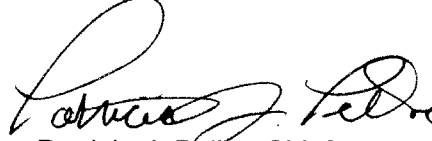
In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), accessible from the NRC's website 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 a large initial "P" and a distinct "Pelke" at the end.

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

Docket No.: 030-34325  
License No.: 03-23853-01VA  
Permit No.: 32-05830-01

Enclosure:  
Inspection Report 03034325/2014006(DNMS)



SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT AND COMPLIANCE INSPECTION

1. LICENSEE/LOCATION INSPECTED:

Department of Veterans Affairs  
Under Secretary for Health  
Washington, D.C.  
Location: Charles George V.A. Medical Center - Asheville, NC  
REPORT NUMBER(S) 2014006

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

July 31, 2014

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 violations(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	Bryan A. Parker		8/22/14
BRANCH CHIEF	Patricia J. Pelke		8/22/14

**Docket File Information**  
**SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT AND COMPLIANCE INSPECTION**

1. LICENSEE/LOCATION INSPECTED:  Department of Veterans Affairs Under Secretary for Health Washington, D.C. Location: Charles George V.A. Medical Center - Asheville, NC  REPORT NUMBER(S) 2014006		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  July 31, 2014	
6. INSPECTION PROCEDURES USED  87131	7. INSPECTION FOCUS AREAS  All		

**SUPPLEMENTAL INSPECTION INFORMATION**

1. PROGRAM CODE(S)  2120	2. PRIORITY  3	3. LICENSEE CONTACT  Gary Williams	4. TELEPHONE NUMBER  (501) 257-1572
<input type="checkbox"/> Main Office Inspection      Next Inspection Date:      N/A			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Field Office Inspection      Asheville, NC			
<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Job Site Inspection			

**PROGRAM SCOPE**

This was a routine, unannounced inspection of permitted activities conducted under Department of Veterans Affairs Permit No. 32-05830-01. The permit was issued to the VA Medical Center authorizing 10 CFR 35.100 and 35.200 at the Asheville, North Carolina location. The staff present during the inspection consisted of 3 certified nuclear medicine technologists (CNMT) and 2 full-time physician authorized users (AU). One of the CNMTs is also the Radiation Safety Officer (RSO). There are 2 other CNMTs on staff as well and 3 other AUs working under the permit. The nuclear medicine facilities included a hot lab (with dosing area), two imaging rooms, and one room for cardiac stress tests.

An average of 7-10 studies were conducted each day, Monday through Friday. Most studies were cardiac studies and the rest were mostly bone and lung studies. The permittee received unit doses from Shertech in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Only technetium-99m doses were used under this permit. The permittee also contracted with a mobile positron emission tomography (PET) service which supplied a full-service van onsite one day each week. All PET activities were conducted by Alliance Health Care Services Inc. under their License Number 47-25570-01.

A health physics consultant provided services on a quarterly basis which included, but were not limited to, QA/QC of equipment, leak-testing of sealed sources, and program audits.

*Docket File Information*

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

**SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT AND COMPLIANCE INSPECTION**

1. LICENSEE/LOCATION INSPECTED:

Department of Veterans Affairs  
Under Secretary for Health  
Washington, D.C.  
Location: Charles George V.A. Medical Center - Asheville, NC

REPORT NUMBER(S) 2014006

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)

03-23853-01 VA

5. DATE(S) OF INSPECTION

July 31, 2014

**PROGRAM SCOPE (Continued)**

**Performance Observations**

The nuclear medicine department, hot lab, and imaging and cardiac rooms were appropriately posted and secured. Radioactive material shipments were delivered to the hot lab by the pharmacy and delivery personnel were allowed access by either the CNMTs or hospital security. The CNMTs checked packages upon arrival for removable contamination and radiation levels. Instrument preparation and calibration was performed each morning prior to the patient studies.

The inspector observed dose preparation and administration of radiopharmaceuticals to patients by a CNMT for 3 cardiac studies, including one stress test. Other activities such as package receipt and daily surveys were demonstrated and/or described to the inspector. The dose calibrator was used to measure doses prior to all administrations. The CNMTs used ALARA techniques, wore protective clothing, used syringe shields, and utilized appropriate personal dosimetry during radioisotope handling. Appropriate use of survey meters and a well counter was observed. The inspector had discussions with nuclear medicine staff regarding training, surveys, and security. The inspector interviewed the CNMTs, as well as the RSO who oversees the safety program, about the permittee's implementation of its radiation safety program. A sampling of records was also reviewed with no concerns noted.

Radiation dose to the staff was typical for the types and level of work conducted. For calendar year (CY) 2013, the maximum whole body dose was 194 millirem and the maximum extremity was 730 millirem. CY2014 exposures were trending similarly to date.

No violations were identified.



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,

/RA/

Patricia J. Pelke, Chief  
Materials Licensing Branch

Docket No.: 030-34325  
License No.: 03-23853-01VA  
Permit No.: 32-05830-01

Enclosure:  
Inspection Report 03034325/2014006(DNMS)

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