



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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

September 5, 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 03034325/2014004(DNMS) – JAMES A. HALEY
VETERANS HOSPITAL, TAMPA, FLORIDA

Dear Mr. Williams:

On August 21, 2014, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) conducted a routine inspection at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital, Tampa, Florida. The inspection was limited to a review of activities authorized under Permit Number 09-15294-01. 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.

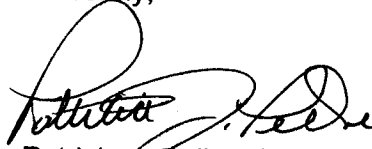
In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC's Public Document Room or from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (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", written over a horizontal line.

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

Docket No.: 030-34325
License No.: 03-23853-01VA
Permit No.: 09-15294-01

Enclosure:
Inspection Report 03034325/2014004(DNMS)



SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT AND COMPLIANCE INSPECTION

1. LICENSEE/LOCATION INSPECTED:

Department of Veterans Affairs
Under Secretary for Health
Washington, D.C.
Location: James A. Haley Veterans Hospital - Tampa, FL
REPORT NUMBER(S) 2014004

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

August 21, 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 | <i>AP</i> | | |
| NRC INSPECTOR | Bryan A. Parker | <i>Bryan A. Parker</i> | 9/5/14 |
| BRANCH CHIEF | Patricia J. Pelke | <i>Patricia J. Pelke</i> | 9/5/2014 |

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: James A. Haley Veterans Hospital - Tampa, FL REPORT NUMBER(S) 2014004 | | 2. NRC/REGIONAL OFFICE Region III U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 2443 Warrenton 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 August 21, 2014 | |
| 6. INSPECTION PROCEDURES USED 87134 and 87131 | 7. INSPECTION FOCUS AREAS All | | |

SUPPLEMENTAL INSPECTION INFORMATION

| | | | |
|---|----------------------|--|---|
| 1. PROGRAM CODE(S) 2110 and 3610 | 2. PRIORITY 2 | 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 Tampa, FL | | | |
| <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. 09-15294-01. The permit was issued to the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital authorizing broad-scope medical activities as well as research and development at the Tampa, Florida location. The staff present during the inspection consisted of 12 certified nuclear medicine technologists (CNMT). This included two positions that were assigned to the positron emission tomography (PET) Center on a rotating basis. There were several authorized users (AU) approved by the permittee's Radiation Safety Committee (RSC) for various medical uses and some research and development (R&D). The permittee employs a full-time health physicist as the Radiation Safety Officer (RSO). The nuclear medicine department included a hot lab (with dosing area), imaging rooms, and one room for cardiac stress tests. The PET Center is a standalone modular building connected to the main hospital via a covered walkway and included a hot lab, dosing rooms, and an imaging area.

Studies were conducted each day, Monday through Friday. An average of 20-25 studies were done each day in nuclear medicine, plus two to four PET studies per day. Most procedures were cardiac related and the rest were mostly bone and lung studies. The permittee received unit doses for nuclear medicine from Cardinal Health Nuclear Pharmacy in Tampa, and received its PET doses from PETNET Solutions, Inc. in Tampa. The permittee also conducted several radiopharmaceutical therapy administrations each year. Approximately 15 iodine-131 therapies were conducted each year and were split between thyroid carcinoma and hyperthyroid treatments, all on an outpatient basis.

R&D activities were approved for two laboratories by the permittee's RSC, but only one was active. Laboratory staff conducted R&D work involving up to one millicurie of phosphorus-32 per month. Research staff in the other approved laboratory occasionally used hydrogen-3 for R&D work, but only had material in storage at the time of the inspection.



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: James A. Haley Veterans Hospital - Tampa, FL

REPORT NUMBER(S) 2014004

2. NRC/REGIONAL OFFICE

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

3. DOCKET NUMBER(S)

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5. DATE(S) OF INSPECTION

August 21, 2014

PROGRAM SCOPE (Continued)

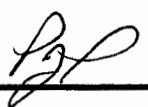
Performance Observations

The nuclear medicine department, including the hot lab, and imaging and cardiac rooms, and the PET Center were appropriately posted and secured. Radioactive shipments were delivered to the hot lab by the respective pharmacy delivery personnel, who were allowed access by either the CNMTs or hospital security. The CNMTs checked the 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 CNMTs in both the nuclear medicine department and PET Center. Other activities such as package receipt and daily surveys were demonstrated and/or described to the inspector in both areas. 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 survey meters and well counters were observed. The inspector had discussions with the RSO and nuclear medicine staff regarding training, surveys, security, and the approval process for AUs. The inspector interviewed CNMTs, as well as the RSO, about the permittee's implementation of its radiation safety program. One of the R&D AUs and a laboratory worker were also interviewed. A sampling of records were reviewed with no concerns noted. These records included written directives issued for therapy procedures, as well as patient release evaluations and instructions to patients.

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 81 millirem and the maximum extremity was 160 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
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Docket No.: 030-34325
License No.: 03-23853-01VA
Permit No.: 41-00104-04

Enclosure:
Inspection Report 03034325/2014007(DNMS)

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| NAME | KNull:ps*KGN | | PPelke*PJP | | |
| DATE | 9/5/14 | | 9/5/14 | | |

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