



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

December 5, 2017

Mr. Thomas Huston, Acting Director
National Health Physics Program (115HP/NLR)
Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
2200 Foot Roots Drive
Little Rock, AR 72114

SUBJECT: NRC OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS REPORT NO. 3-2017-006

Dear Mr. Huston:

This refers to an investigation conducted by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Office of Investigations (OI) to determine whether a program manager with the Department of Veterans Affairs National Health Physics Program (NHPP) was discriminated against by management for raising safety concerns. Based on the evidence developed during the investigation, we did not substantiate the allegation. The synopsis from the OI Report of Investigation is enclosed.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this matter, please contact an NRC Region III Office Allegation Coordinator by calling (800) 522-3025. The NRC Region III Office Allegation Coordinators are Jim Heller, Paul Pelke, and Sarah Bakhsh.

In accordance with Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosure, and your response, if any, 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> (the Public Electronic Reading Room). You should note that final NRC documents, including the final OI reports, may be made available to the public under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) subject to redaction of information pursuant to the FOIA. Requests under the FOIA should be made in accordance

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with 10 CFR 9.23, Request for Records. The instructions for making a request for information under the FOIA are accessible at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/foia/foia-request.html>.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

Docket No. 030-34325
License No. 03-23853-01VA

Enclosure:
OI Synopsis

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Letter to T. Huston from P. J. Pelke; dated December 5, 2017

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OFFICE	RIII	N	OI:RIII	N	RIII	N	RIII	N
NAME	PRPelke		Langan*		Skokowski**		PJPelke	
DATE	12/04/17		12/04/17		12/05/17		12/05/17	

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* For permission to release OI synopsis. ** The 3-week e-mail has expired.

Note: The 3-week emailed was dated 08/31/17 and timed out on 09/28/17. No comments were provided.

OI SYNOPSIS

This investigation was initiated on December 21, 2016, by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Office of Investigations, Region III, to determine whether a program manager with the Department of Veterans Affairs National Health Physics Program (NHPP) was discriminated against by management for raising safety concerns.

Based on the evidence developed, the allegation that a program manager with the NHPP was discriminated against by management for raising safety concerns was not substantiated.