

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I

Report No. 030-10026/91-002

Docket No. 030-10026

License No. 31-02755-05 Priority 1 Category G

Licensee: Veterans Administration Medical Center
113 Holland Avenue
Albany, New York 12208

Facility Name: Veterans Administration Medical Center

Enforcement Conference At: King of Prussia, Pennsylvania

Enforcement Conference Conducted: July 8, 1991

Prepared by: Mary Cahill 7/16/91
Mary Cahill, Health Physicist date

Approved by: Thomas I. Dayoun 7/16/91
Mohamed M. Shanbaky, Chief date
Nuclear Materials Safety Section A

Conference Summary: An Enforcement Conference held at NRC Region I office in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania on July 8, 1991 to discuss the finding of an Office of Investigations (OI) Inquiry into apparent falsification of required sealed source inventory records by the former Radiation Safety Officer (RSO), the licensee's policies regarding sealed source inventories, and the licensee's corrective actions.

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DETAILS

1.0 Attendees

Veterans Administration Medical Center

Lawrence H. Flesh, M.D., Chief of Staff, RSO
Frederick L. Malphurs, Director
Andrew Kang, M.D., Chief, Nuclear Medicine Service
Arnold W. Proskin, Attorney

NRC

Malcolm R. Knapp, Director, Division of
Radiation Safety and Safeguards
Ronald R. Bellamy, Chief, Nuclear Materials Safety Branch
Mohamed M. Shanbaky, Chief, Nuclear Materials
Daniel J. Holody, Enforcement Officer
Karla Smith, Regional Attorney
Giovanna M. Longo, Litigation Attorney, OGC
Mary Cahill, Health Physicist
*Donna-Beth Howe, NMSS
*Geoffery Cant, Office of Enforcement
*Edward Kline, Office of Enforcement

* by telephone

2.0 Summary

On July 8, 1991, representatives of the Veterans Administration Medical Center met with NRC representatives in the Region I office at King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. In an opening statement, Mr. Ronald Bellamy explained the purpose of the Enforcement Conference.

The Director of the Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC) acknowledged that the Synopsis of OI Investigation Report 1-90-018 sent to him on June 26, 1991 appeared to be accurate. The former Radiation Safety Officer reviewed his involvement with respect to each of the four sealed source inventory records, as follows:

January 10, 1990 inventory -

The former RSO was assisted in conducting a physical inventory of sealed sources in Nuclear Medicine by a Nuclear Medicine technologist. Sealed sources in other locations were inventoried through telephone verifications to principle investigators or other knowledgeable persons and by physical inventory performed by the former RSO.

April 10, 1990 inventory -

The former RSO added three new sealed sources to a previous inventory list and contacted a few principle investigators to verify the inventory. No physical inventory was conducted by the former RSO.

July 10, 1990 and October 14, 1990 inventories -

The former RSO stated that he assumed that the previous Acting RSO had completed the physical inventory and therefore he signed the inventory records.

The former RSO stressed that he was not adequately familiar with NRC regulations regarding sealed source inventories and was unaware that requirements were violated. He also stated that his other responsibilities as a physician interfered with his ability to perform his RSO responsibilities.

The licensee described corrective actions that have been implemented:

- . A new qualified RSO was named in January, 1991 (Dr. Flesh) to fulfill the RSO functions in the interim until a permanent replacement can be hired.
- . A complete sealed source inventory was conducted by the current RSO in March, 1991.
- . Record keeping for sealed source inventories was revised.
- . A new RSO will be named, pending approval of the Radiation Safety Committee and the NRC.