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MEMORANDUM FOR: Donald E. Funk, Region III Allegation Coordinator
FROM: Roy J. Caniano, Acting Chief, Nuclear Materials Safety Branch
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH DIRECTOR, VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL
CENTER, NORTH CHICAGO (AMS NO. RIII-92-0127)

On January 7, 1993, myself, along with Messrs. Axelson and Shear, contacted Mr. Al Pate, Medical Center Director, of the subject facility to discuss that facility's response to DRSS Inspection Report 030-15269/92001. This report documented the findings of a special inspection to review allegations concerning the licensee's nuclear medicine program.

During the conversation, Mr. Pate indicated that the staffing shortage described in the inspection report did in fact occur, however, was intentionally created by Dr. Jergens, thus creating a potentially unsafe working environment. Mr. Pate stated that Dr. Jergens granted leave to personnel in an effort to support his claim of staffing shortages. Mr. Pate also stated that when V.A. Administration initially attempted to rectify the staffing shortage by reassigning certain nuclear medicine program areas, Dr. Jergens retracted his concerns over staffing problems.

This information was verbally relayed to Mr. Hal Walker following our conversation. If you have any questions, please call me.

Roy J. Caniano, Acting Chief
Nuclear Materials Safety Branch

cc: H. Walker, OI, RIII

RIII
GCS
Shear/dg
01/11/93

RIII
Axelson
1/11/93

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Caniano