

December 11, 1996

Docket No. 030-01237

License No. 06-00092-05

Vincent Ng, Director  
VA Connecticut Health Care System  
West Haven Campus  
950 Campbell Avenue  
West Haven, Connecticut 06516

SUBJECT: INSPECTION NO. 030-01237/96-001

Dear Mr. Ng:

On November 5 and 8, 1996, Ms. Neelam Bhalla of this office conducted a safety inspection at West Haven and Newington VA, of activities authorized by the above listed NRC license. The inspection was an examination of your licensed activities as they relate to radiation safety and to compliance with the Commission's regulations and the license conditions. The inspection consisted of observations by the inspector, interviews with personnel, and a selective examination of representative records. The findings of the inspection were discussed with you and members of your staff, at the conclusion of the inspection.

Based on the results of this inspection, it appears that your activities were not conducted in full compliance with NRC requirements. A Notice of Violation is enclosed. The violation described in the attached Notice of Violation involves the storage and control of licensed material. The violation is classified at a Severity Level IV violation after careful consideration of the factors involved in this specific instance and in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions," (Enforcement Policy) NUREG 1600. Classification of this event as a Severity Level IV violation was based on the fact that only a small quantity of tritium (H-3) was involved, limited safety consequence, and the incident was isolated rather than programmatic in nature. Similar violations of this type in the future may be classified at a higher severity level and may result in additional enforcement action.

Please use the enclosed self-addressed green envelope when you respond to this letter to assist us in the timely processing of your response. In accordance with Section 2.790 of NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter and your reply will be placed in the Public Document Room (PDR). To the extent possible, your response should not include any personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information so that it can be placed in the PDR without redaction. However, if you find it necessary to include such information, you should clearly indicate the specific information that you desire not to be placed in the PDR, and provide the legal basis to support your request for withholding the information

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from the public. The responses directed by this letter and the accompanying Notice are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, PL 96-511.

Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

**Original Signed By:**  
**Mohamed M. Shanbaky**

Mohamed M. Shanbaky, Chief  
Nuclear Materials Safety Branch 1  
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Docket No.: 030-01237  
License No.: 06-00092-05

Enclosure:  
Notice of Violation

cc w/enclosure:

1. Terry Yoshizumi, Ph.D., Radiation Safety Officer
2. State of Connecticut
3. Francis K. Herbig  
Health Physics Program (115 HP)  
Dept. of Veterans Affairs  
915 North Grand Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63106

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DATE	12/10/96		12/11/96		12/ /96		12/ /96

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