



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064

December 23, 1996

Lt. Colonel J. J. Donnelly
Department of the Air Force
USAF Radioisotope Committee
HQ AFMOA/SGPR
8901 18th Street
Brooks AFB, Texas 78235-5217

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 030-28641/96-16

Dear Lt. Colonel Donnelly:

On November 22, 1996, the NRC completed an inspection at Brooks Air Force Base (AFB), San Antonio, Texas. The purpose of the inspection was to determine whether activities authorized under NRC License 42-23539-01AF were conducted in accordance with NRC requirements.

The inspection included a review of activities associated with the U.S. Air Force (USAF) master material license as they relate to radiation safety and to compliance with the Commission's rules and regulations and the conditions of the license. Special emphasis was placed on several major areas within the USAF program including: (1) permitting activities, (2) inspection activities and followup to inspection findings, (3) licensee event reports and followup, and (4) the Radioisotope Committee (RIC) organization and its oversight of program activities. These areas are described in more detail in the attached report.

No violations or deviations were identified; therefore, no response to this letter is required. However, the inspection did identify one concern regarding the reporting and resolution of events and inspection findings. Specifically, some events reported to the RIC by permittees had not received a timely or thorough review by the RIC. In particular, we noted that the RIC in one instance did not ensure that an event was thoroughly investigated by a permittee to identify causes of the event and any associated violations of permit conditions or applicable NRC regulations. In addition, we noted that corrective actions proposed by permittees in some instances failed to address all root and contributing causes. You are encouraged to take action in response to this concern to ensure that events reported to the RIC receive timely and thorough reviews by the RIC staff. This aspect of the RIC's function is critical to maintaining effective program oversight.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

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PDR ADOCK 03028641
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Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, please contact Ms. Linda McLean at (817) 860-8116 or Ms. Linda Howell at (817) 860-8213.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ross A. Scarano". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Ross A. Scarano, Director
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Docket No.: 030-28641
License No.: 42-23539-01AF

Enclosure:
NRC Inspection Report 030-28641/96-16

cc w/Enclosure:
Department of the Air Force
ATTN: Major General Charles H. Roadman II
HQ AFMOA/SGP
170 Luke Avenue, Suite 400
Bolling AFB, D.C. 20332-5113

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