



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV

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

October 7, 1996

Mr. Robert G. Funari
President and Chief Executive Officer
Syncor International Corporation
20001 Prairie Street
Chatsworth, California 91311

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 030-33224/96-013 AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Funari:

On September 17, 1996, the NRC completed an inspection at your facility in Glastonbury, Connecticut. The inspection included a review of activities performed at the Glastonbury pharmacy during a site visit on August 16-17 and a review of information obtained during subsequent telephonic discussions with your staff. The findings of the inspection were discussed with Syncor representatives from the corporate office and the Glastonbury pharmacy during a telephonic exit briefing on September 17.

The inspection consisted of observations by the inspector, interviews with personnel, and selective examination of representative records. Particular attention was given to reviewing a contamination incident involving iodine-131. The incident involved contamination of a pharmacist's shoe which was not promptly identified because surveys required by Syncor procedures were not adequately performed. As a result, contamination on the individual's shoe was tracked into unrestricted areas of the pharmacy. The pharmacist's failure to perform an adequate survey of the glove box area following preparation of iodine-131 capsules and to adequately monitor his clothing (shoes) for contamination prior to leaving an area where radioactive materials were used was identified as a violation. The violation is cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice). Please note that you are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

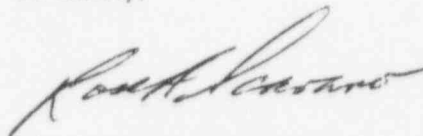
The above noted violation is of concern to the NRC because it resulted in contamination of limited areas of the unrestricted portion of your facility and because it indicates potential weaknesses in some individuals' implementation of your survey program. Although contamination in the restricted area of the facility was quickly identified, contamination in the unrestricted area of the facility was not. In addition, a previous occurrence of floor contamination at the Glastonbury pharmacy in July 1996, while contained in the restricted area, indicated that some individuals' radioisotope handling and survey techniques may be deficient. Therefore, in addition to the items identified in the enclosed Notice, your response to this letter should include a description of actions taken or planned by Syncor

to ensure that required surveys are of sufficient detail and scope to identify contamination in the pharmacy area and on personnel, and that individuals are aware of the importance of conducting thorough surveys after handling radioactive materials. The NRC expects that Syncor management will evaluate the need for additional training and performance-based audits to ensure that employees understand and follow all radiopharmaceutical preparation, handling and survey procedures. Further violations of this nature could result in significant enforcement action.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosure, and your response will be placed in the NRC 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.

Should you have any questions concerning this letter or the inspection, please contact Mr. James Montgomery at (510) 975-0249 or Ms. Linda Howell at (817) 860-8213.

Sincerely,



Ross A. Scarano, Director
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Docket No.: 030-33224
License No.: 04-26507-01MD

Enclosure:
Notice of Violation

cc w/enclosure:
Daniel Murphy, Radiation Safety Officer
Syncor Pharmacy Services
Glastonbury Corporate Center
628 Hebron Avenue, Building #4
Glastonbury, Connecticut 06033

Connecticut Radiation Control Program Director

bcc w/encl.to DMB (IE07)

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LJCallan

CLCain

DBSpitzberg

*LLHowell

*FAWenslawski

JKinneman, DNMS/RI

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*MIS System

*RIV Nuclear Materials File - 5th Floor

*WCFO MB Docket File

*W/IFS Form

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