

**Veterans
Administration**

MAY 24 1985

In Reply Refer To: 523/11

Ref. Docket 030-01815
Cal. No. 84-21

Regional Administrator
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region I
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Gentlemen:

Following is our response to the Assessment Report of F.X. Masse dated 2/25/85, covering the Boston VA Medical Center radiation safety program. The response is organized according to the assessment report.

- 1.g. 1,2 We agree with the proposed reorganization of the two existing committees such that the current Radiation Safety Committee will be the surviving committee, strengthened to satisfy the requirements of Reg. Guide 10.8. The operating rules and procedures of the new committee will conform with Reg. Guide 10.8.
- 1.2. 3,4 Enclosed is the new application form we have begun to use in upgrading our internal licensing program. The review of the application is now a two-step formal procedure, first by a health physicist, then by the committee. The completed, signed form, with conditions of approval which must be followed, constitutes the departmental license, complete with possession limits.
- 1.g.5 Renewal procedures will be instituted by the application of the licensee and will involve a formal review procedure similar to the initial application.
- 2.c As suggested, we have actively recruited a replacement RSO, who has formal training in health physics. We have been fortunate in locating a masters-level qualified health physicist with relevant experience who will assume this responsibility.
- 3.e We agree with the recommendation of Mr. Masse relative to the training and experience requirements of this program. With respect to the requirements for supervisors, the minimum requirements, additional training, written examination, and requirements for medical use, will also be adhered to. The user training requirements recommended by Mr. Masse will also be adhered to and the necessary training program is being organized.

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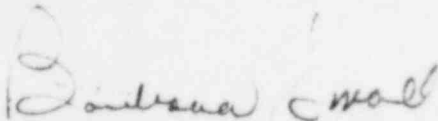
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Regional Administrator
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

- 4.1 The recommendations contained in this section of Mr. Masse's report will also be followed. As indicated above and in the enclosed new application form, we have already converted to a possession limit control program. The changes proposed in controlling the purchase and receipt of radioactive material are being implemented. The additional survey equipment recommended has been purchased and all individuals are being instructed in survey and monitoring requirements. The personnel monitoring and waste management programs are being formalized under the control of the new RSO.

We agree with Mr. Masse's assessment of current compliance with existing regulations and with his estimate on when full compliance with all applicable regulations can be achieved. Meanwhile, great improvement has been and will continue to be realized. A major license amendment request is in preparation and will be submitted within the month, once the restructuring of the program is settled internally.

Sincerely,



BARBARA A. SMALL
Medical Center Director

Enclosure