



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

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

February 24, 1997

Mr. Kenneth Clark
Medical Center Director
Department of Veterans Affairs
Medical Center, West Los Angeles
11301 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90073

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 030-22280/96-01

Dear Mr. Clark:

On January 2, 1997, the NRC completed a reactive inspection at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, West Los Angeles, California (VALA). The inspection included observation of activities relating to use of a cobalt-60 teletherapy unit, interviews of VALA personnel during site visits conducted from December 4-13, 1996, and review of information provided by your staff during telephone interviews and in written correspondence subsequent to the onsite review. The inspection findings were discussed during an exit briefing held with members of your staff on January 2, 1997. The enclosed Inspection Report 030-22280/96-01 documents this inspection.

This inspection focused on actions taken by your staff and the teletherapy unit manufacturer to identify the cause of failures of the source drawer to move the source to the exposed position when the unit was activated. The problem was first noted by your staff on November 27, 1996, and was observed again on several subsequent dates.

Within the program areas reviewed during this inspection, no violations of NRC requirements were identified; therefore, no response to this letter is required.

In our January 2, 1997, supplement to a Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) issued on December 10, 1996, we confirmed certain actions to be taken by VALA including submittal of a written report concerning a final determination of the cause of the teletherapy unit malfunctions, as well as your long-term plans for use of the unit. In addition, your written response to the December 10, 1996, CAL indicated that you would provide copies of Theratronics' service reports of work relating to the source drawer failures. As stipulated in the CAL, VALA is expected to provide a written response to these issues no later than April 1, 1997.

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

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PDR ADOCK 03022280
C PDR

Department of Veterans Affairs
Medical Center, West Los Angeles

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

Sincerely,



Ross A. Scarano, Director
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Docket No.: 030-22280
License No.: 04-00181-12

Enclosure:
NRC Inspection Report 030-22280/96-01

cc w/enclosure:
California Radiation Control Program Director

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Department of Veterans Affairs
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Department of Veterans Affairs
Medical Center, West Los Angeles

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bcc to DMB (IE07)

bcc w/enclosure:

JEDyer

DACool, NMSS (T-8F5)

LWCamper, NMSS (T-8F5)

DSerig, NMSS/IMOB (T-8F5)

RAYres, NMSS (T-8F5)

RAScarano

CLCain

LLHowell

DBSpitzberg

FAWenslawski

JLMontgomery

DDSkov

WCFO Nuclear Materials Docket File

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*See previous concurrence

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Medical Center, West Los Angeles

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