



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Medical Center
Iowa City IA 52246-2208

MAR 04 1997

In Reply Refer To: 584/115

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

SUBJECT: Reply to a Notice of Violation

To Whom it May Concern:

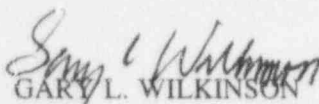
This letter is written in response to your letter of February 21, 1997 and the Notice of Violation (Docket No. 030-01680).

The first violation regarding lack of security of material resulted from research workers leaving the laboratories and not locking the laboratories until their return. The Radiation Safety Officer and the Administrative Officer for Research and Development Service have conferred on the matter and are recommending locks for cabinets and refrigerators/freezers used for storing these materials. Some areas already have such devices, and their use has been satisfactory. I anticipate locks can be purchased and in use by April 15, 1997. On that date the facility will be in compliance.

The second violation regarding failure to obtain a timely thyroid bioassay for handling a quantity of sodium iodide-131 was the result of confusion on the part of the technologist concerning the regulatory requirement. Previously this material had been used in liquid form, but on this occasion it was purchased in capsular or solid form. The technologist has been instructed and understands the requirement. The institution is currently in compliance.

If you have any questions, please contact William Pettit, Ph.D., Radiation Safety Officer, at (319) 338-0581, extension 6030.

Sincerely,


GARY L. WILKINSON
Medical Center Director

cc:

Regional Administrator, Region III

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