



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION V

1450 MARIA LANE, SUITE 210  
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94596

RECEIVED  
NRC

1985 AUG 19 PM 2:43

AUG 09 1985

Docket No. 030-08456  
License No. 04-15030-01  
EA 85-82

REGION V I&E

Veterans Administration Medical Center  
3350 La Jolla Village Drive  
San Diego, California 92161

DESIGNATED ORIGINAL  
Certified By Not noack

Attention: Norman E. Hensley  
Medical Center Director (Acting)

Gentlemen:

Subject: Notice of Violation (NRC Inspection Report No. 30-08456/85-01)

This refers to the inspection conducted on May 15-16 and July 1-3, 1985 at the Veterans Administration Medical Center, San Diego, California, by Mr. F. Pang of this office. The inspection was conducted to investigate the circumstances associated with the loss of iridium-192 seeds at the Medical Center around the April 24-25, 1985 timeframe. The missing seeds were reported to NRC Region V by your Radiation Safety Officer on May 1, 1985. During the inspection eight violations of NRC requirements were identified. On May 31 and July 10, 1985, we held an enforcement conference and telephone conference, respectively, with you and members of your staff during which these violations, their causes, and your corrective actions were discussed.

The violations described in the Notice of Violation include: (1) the loss of radioactive materials; (2) failure to survey areas in which radioactive materials are located or handled; (3) failure to conduct annual audits; (4) failure to maintain adequate records; (5) inadequate training; and (6) several examples of failing to comply with the requirements of the Radiation Safety Manual. Collectively, these violations represent a breakdown in the management oversight and control of the radiation safety program. Two of the eight violations were repeat violations.

The violations have been categorized in the aggregate as a Severity Level III problem in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions," 10 CFR Part 2, Appendix C (1985). Civil penalties are normally considered for Severity Level III violations. However, the NRC Enforcement Policy allows for reduction of a civil penalty under certain circumstances. In this case, because of your prompt identification and reporting, and your unusually prompt and extensive corrective actions, I have decided, after consultation with the Director, Office of Inspection and Enforcement, not to propose a civil penalty in this case.

You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. In your response, you should document the specific actions taken and any additional actions you plan to prevent recurrence. After reviewing your response to this Notice, the NRC will determine whether further NRC enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with NRC regulatory requirements.

8508230277 850809  
REG5 LIC30  
04-15030-01 PDR

IEDS  
11

Veterans Administration  
Medical Center

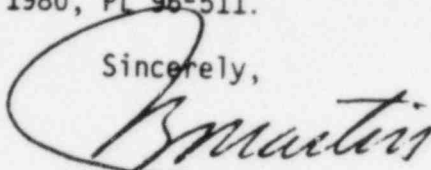
- 2 -

AUG 09 1985

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

The responses directed by this letter and the enclosed Notice are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, PL 96-511.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. B. Martin", enclosed within a large, loopy circular flourish.

John B. Martin  
Regional Administrator

Enclosure:  
Notice of Violation

cc:  
State of California