

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION V

Report No. 85-02  
License No. 04-17862-01  
Licensee: Veterans Administration Medical Center  
Jerry L. Pettis Memorial Veterans Hospital  
11201 Benton Street  
Loma Linda, California 92357  
Facility Name: Same as above  
Conference at: Same as above  
Conference conducted: December 10, 1985

NRC Participants:

Ross A. Scarano, Director  
Division of Radiation Safety and Safeguards

Date Signed

*J. L. Montgomery*  
J. L. Montgomery, Chief  
Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards  
Branch

*12/17/85*  
Date Signed

*J. L. Montgomery for*  
R. D. Thomas, Chief  
Nuclear Materials Safety Section

*12/17/85*  
Date Signed

Approved By:

*Ross A. Scarano*  
Ross A. Scarano, Director  
Division of Radiation Safety and Safeguards

*12/19/85*  
Date Signed

Summary:

Enforcement Conference on December 10, 1985 (Report No. 85-02)

The following matters were discussed:

1. The violations identified during an NRC inspection conducted November 18-27, 1985.
2. NRC enforcement options.
3. NRC concerns.
4. Licensee management and radiation safety committee responsibilities.

The enforcement conference involved a total of one and a half hours, utilizing three NRC representatives.

## Enforcement Conference

### DETAILS

#### 1. Enforcement Conference Participants

J. Hickman, VAMC Director  
K. Clark, VAMC Associate Director  
I. Kuhn, M.D., Acting Chief of Staff  
T. Bennett, Radiation Safety Officer  
R. Adey, Associate Chief of Staff, R&D  
J. Llauro, M.D., Chief, Nuclear Medicine  
R. Scarano, US NRC  
J. Montgomery, US NRC  
R. Thomas, US NRC

#### 2. Enforcement Conference

On December 10, 1985, an enforcement conference was held at the VAMC, Loma Linda, California with the individuals listed above participating. The enforcement conference was related to the inspection conducted at the VAMC, Loma Linda on November 18-19, 1985 and subsequent telephone conferences through November 27, 1985. Activities involving the use of radioactive material at this location are authorized by NRC License Number 04-17862-01. The enforcement conference was announced in a letter to the licensee dated December 4, 1985.

Mr. R. A. Scarano, NRC, began the meeting by stating that the purpose of the enforcement conference was to discuss the violations found by the NRC inspector, provide the licensee an opportunity to offer additional facts concerning the violations, and to discuss the NRC concerns and enforcement policy. The need for strong participation on the part of management and the Radiation Safety Committee to control the overall licensed program was stressed as one of the most significant requirements in maintaining an acceptable radiological safety program.

Mr. R. D. Thomas, NRC, reviewed the licensee's enforcement history for the period December 1981 to December 1985. The eight violations from the November 1985 inspection were discussed in detail. Mr. Scarano stressed the importance of management review and evaluation of the Radiation Safety Officer's Quarterly Reports, the Management ALARA Inspections and the Radiation Safety and Radioactive Drug Research Committee Meeting minutes.

Mr. J. L. Montgomery expressed NRC's concerns for the licensee exercising adequate control over radioactive material users under the broad licensing concept. It was emphasized that management, the Radiation Safety Committee and the Radiation Safety Officer must insure that hospital procedures and license conditions are being followed by all users. Mr. Montgomery also briefly summarized the NRC enforcement policy and described the meaning of the severity levels assigned to each violation.

The licensee's representatives asked several clarifying questions concerning the violations and described some of the corrective actions contemplated or under way. Mr. J. Hickman expressed his desire to correct and prevent recurrence of the violations and indicated he and his staff would evaluate the management oversight of the radiation safety program with the goal of eliminating any inadequacies that may exist.

Mr. Thomas reminded all participants that an early NRC reinspection at VAMC could be expected.