

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I

Significant Licensee Meeting No. 84-101

Enforcement Conference Report No. 84-02

Docket No. 030-01815

License No. 20-00671-02

Priority II

Category G1

Licensee: Veteran's Administration Hospital
150 South Huntington Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02130

Facility Name: Veteran's Administration Hospital

Enforcement Conference At: Region I, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania

Enforcement Conference Conducted: October 25, 1984

Prepared by:

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Nuclear Materials Section B

11/21/84
date

Approved by:

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12/7/84
date

Summary: The conference involved a meeting between NRC management and the Veteran's Administration Hospital management to discuss the apparent breakdown in the licensee's radiation safety program. The discussion included the inspection findings and the licensee's response to these findings. The licensee proposed a reorganization of their radiation safety program and discussed what this reorganization would entail.

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DETAILS

1. Persons Attending

Veteran's Administration Hospital

Dr. L. Marks, Chief of Staff
Dr. A. Robbins, Chairman, Radiation Safety Committee and Chief,
Radiology Service
Dr. W. Slingerland, Physician, Nuclear Medicine Service
J. Cardarelli, Radiation Safety Officer
F. X. Masse', Consultant
Dr. J. J. Smith, Director, Nuclear Medicine Services, V.A. Central Office

Nuclear Regulatory Commission

J. Allan, Deputy Regional Administrator
T. Martin, Director, Division of Engineering and Technical Programs
J. Glenn, Chief, Nuclear Materials Section B
D. Holody, Enforcement Specialist
J. Gutierrez, Regional Attorney
J. Johansen, Radiation Specialist
E. Wurtz, Radiation Specialist
K. Murphy, Technical Assistant

2. Conference Summary

- a. Introductions were made and the representatives of the Veteran's Administration Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts were welcomed to Region I by James M. Allan, Deputy Regional Administrator.
- b. Thomas T. Martin, Director, Division of Engineering and Technical Programs, explained the purpose and format of the Enforcement Conference. Mr. Martin expressed concern about the large number of apparent violations of NRC regulations and License Conditions which indicated a general breakdown of the licensee's radiation safety program. The licensee was asked to discuss the failure to adequately control their radiation safety program and to share with the NRC the steps they have taken to address the causes of this failure. Ms. Jenny Johansen presented the findings of the August 31, 1984 and September 12, 1984 inspection of the licensee's byproduct material license. Each apparent violation was discussed.
- c. Mr. Frank Masse', the licensee's consultant, responded to the list of apparent violations by stating that the licensee did not contest any of the cited violations and agreed with the conclusions of the inspection report. In an effort to save time he suggested that Dr. Robbins, Chairman of the Radiation Safety Committee, present the recommendations of the Committee for reorganizing the radiation safety program to prevent problems similar to those which led to this enforcement conference from recurring.

- d. Dr. Alan Robbins stated that the Radiation Safety Committee was considering the following proposals:
1. The Isotope Committee will be abolished. The Radiation Safety Committee (RSC) will take over complete responsibility for the radiation safety program and will be required to meet quarterly. The membership of the committee will satisfy regulatory requirements.
 2. The Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) will be an official member of the RSC but will report directly to the Chief of Staff and Hospital Director.
 3. A consultant will be contracted to periodically audit the radiation safety program to ensure regulatory compliance.
 4. Corrective actions dealing with the specific violations as detailed in the inspection report have been enacted. A preliminary report of these actions is available to the Commission.
- e. Dr. Ward Slingerland, a representative of the Nuclear Medicine Service, stated that Nuclear Medicine concurs with the proposed reorganization including the need to maintain an independent RSO.
- f. Dr. Leon Marks, Chief of Staff, expressed his desire to see an educational program for all radioactive materials users, including physicians, which would address problems of radiation safety and regulatory requirements. Dr. Marks expressed confidence in the Departments of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, but lacked confidence in the radiation safety standards of the research programs. He promised extensive management involvement to address these problems.
- g. Dr. J. J. Smith, Director, Nuclear Medicine Services, V.A. Central Office, expressed his opinion that it was essential that the RSO report directly to the Hospital Director.
- h. At the conclusion of the Enforcement Conference, Mr. Martin expressed encouragement with the direction of the proposed changes of the radiation safety program calling for (1) a reorganization of the RSC, (2) an independent audit of the radiation safety program, (3) a training program for all users of radioactive materials. He expressed his belief that, in the beginning, quarterly meetings of the RSC would not be sufficient to bring about these programmatic changes. Mr. Martin stated that the Commission would be looking at the corrective actions that the licensee has taken regarding the specific violations cited in the inspection report and urged the licensee not to wait for correspondence from the NRC to initiate these corrective actions.
- i. Mr. Allan stated that he was encouraged by the licensee's plans but stressed that the NRC will be looking for improvement in their program in future inspections. He expressed the need for a continued commitment by the licensee to run a radiation safety program in compliance with the regulations.

3. New Information Presented at and Subsequent to the Enforcement Conference

No new written information was submitted.