



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

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

May 5, 1997

EA 97-157

Mr. George H. Dashner, President
Clinton Regional Hospital
P.O. Box 1569
Clinton, Oklahoma 73601

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 030-13129/97-01 AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Dashner:

On April 14, 1997, the NRC concluded an inspection of activities conducted at Clinton Regional Hospital. The inspection included observation of activities, a review of records and discussions with your staff during a site visit on March 18, 1997, and review of your letter dated March 31, 1997. At the conclusion of the onsite portion of this inspection, the inspector discussed his findings with you and members of your staff. On April 14, the inspector conducted telephonic exit briefings with your Radiation Safety Officer and Radiology Director to discuss the findings of the inspection.

As a result of our inspection, certain of your activities appeared to be in violation of NRC requirements as specified in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice). The violations described in the Notice involved: 1) a failure to secure or maintain surveillance over a room containing licensed material, 2) placement of several contaminated items in a waste receptacle not designated for radioactive waste, 3) the conduct of daily surveys at the beginning of the day instead of at the end of each day that byproduct material was used, 4) failures to conduct weekly radiation and contamination surveys as required by 10 CFR 35.70(b) and (e), 5) failure to test a dose calibrator for changes in geometry dependence after relocation in the nuclear medicine area, and 6) failures to write the quantity (activity) of radioactive material on shipping papers used when returning old molybdenum-99/technetium-99m generators to the manufacturer.

The first violation is of particular concern to the NRC since it involves security of licensed material. The NRC considers the failure to secure licensed material a matter of regulatory concern because such failures may result in inadvertent exposures or contamination incidents, or inadvertent loss or release of the material to the public domain. However, in this case the inspector determined that the door to your nuclear medicine area was left unsecured for a short period of time, and it appeared that your staff normally had controls in place to either secure the room or provide surveillance of the area. This was confirmed through interviews of your staff. Thus, the failure to secure the nuclear medicine area observed during our inspection appeared to be an isolated occurrence. Because this failure appeared to be an isolated occurrence and your staff had implemented controls which generally appeared effective, the violation has been categorized at Severity Level IV.

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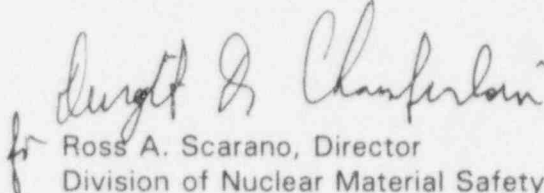
Please be advised that further failures to secure licensed material may be considered for additional enforcement action.

You would normally be required to respond to this letter and the enclosed Notice. However, the NRC has concluded that information regarding the reasons for the violations, the corrective actions taken and planned to correct the violations and prevent recurrence are already adequately addressed on the docket in your letter dated March 31, 1997. Therefore, you are not required to respond to this letter unless the description therein does not accurately reflect your corrective actions or your position. In that case, or if you choose to provide additional information, you should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice.

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 (PDR).

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact William H. Radcliffe at (817) 860-8151 or Linda L. Howell at (817) 860-8213.

Sincerely,


for Ross A. Scarano, Director
Division of Nuclear Material Safety

Docket: 030-13129
License: 35-17654-01

Enclosure:
Notice of Violation

cc:
Oklahoma Radiation Control Program Director

E-Mail report to Document Control Desk (DOCDESK)

E-Mail report to OE (OEMAIL)

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