



December 27th, 2021

David Pelton, Director
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region III
Radiation Protection Section
2443 Warrenville RD., Suite 210
Lisle, IL 60532-4352

Dear Mr. Pelton,

We, Digirad Imaging Solutions, Inc., in keeping with the reporting requirements set forth under 10 CFR 20.2203, wish to notify the NRC of an incident resulting in a level of radiation exceeding the limits set forth under our license in our radiation safety manual.

The incident occurred at one of our temporary client locations, Heart and Vascular Associates, LLC., in Farmington, MO on November 29th, 2021. The nuclear medicine technologist (NMT) was preparing to inject a patient with a dose of Tc-99m, when he accidentally partially depressed the plunger of the syringe, spilling some of the material onto the floor in an area of about 2 square inches. The cardiac stress technician (CST) noted that the NMT wiped this area of the floor following injection, but did not proceed with proper spill procedures or complete a survey of the area at this time. The CST then performed a survey of the area, finding a reading of 266mR/hr. The CST informed the NMT, who then returned to clean the area with radiacwash but failed to follow up with an area survey. At the end of the day around 4pm, the CST performed an area survey of the spill, finding a reading of 11mR/hr. The NMT performed another survey shortly afterwards, but did not note any levels of contamination, listing the reading in the area at 0.05mR/hr. The NMT did not submit an incident report, but the CST notified the RSO of the incident after leaving the site.

As the reading on contact for the spill was 11mR/hr, the dose rate to the torso of an individual standing on the spot would be about 0.03mR/hr, so no individuals are estimated to have received any doses in excess of the regulatory limits. The NMT was terminated for repeated violations of radiation safety protocol, as well as for falsifying data on the area survey. The CST was instructed in future to be more proactive in cleaning the spill if the NMT is unwilling, or to close off the area if a spill is unable to be completely cleaned. Digirad has also developed a policy to train all CSTs in proper survey meter operation and spill cleanup, so that all CSTs will be prepared to address any such future issues.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at 713-376-1892, or stephanie.blanton@digirad.com.

Thank you,

Stephanie Blanton
Corporate Radiation Safety Officer

Pavon, Sandy

From: Kunowski, Michael
Sent: Wednesday, December 29, 2021 7:10 AM
To: Draper, Jason
Subject: FW: RE: Acknowledgement - Amendment Request for License No. 10-29283-02
Attachments: 12-27-21 Incident Report DIS 10-29283-02.pdf

You're it.....I'm unfamiliar with this licensee. Please followup.

From: Tomczak, Tammy <Tammy.Tomczak@nrc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 3:03 PM
To: Kunowski, Michael <Michael.Kunowski@nrc.gov>
Subject: FW: RE: Acknowledgement - Amendment Request for License No. 10-29283-02

Hi Mike,

I think this belongs to MIB??

Please let me know.

Thanks,
Tammy

From: Stephanie Blanton <Stephanie.Blanton@digirad.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 2:26 PM
To: Tomczak, Tammy <Tammy.Tomczak@nrc.gov>
Subject: [External_Sender] RE: Acknowledgement - Amendment Request for License No. 10-29283-02

Thank you Tammy!

I was hoping you could help me out with directing this to the proper channels, as I was not certain of the proper person to contact about this- typically I would mail it in that case, but with the 30 day notification deadline so close, I was worried it would not arrive in time and wanted to ensure timely delivery. I have attached my report of an incident that occurred at one of our client locations that resulted in a radiation area above the limits we had set forth in our license. I've addressed it to David Pelton, Director of the Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, but if that is not the correct contact person, any help in this would be much appreciated.

Thank you so much for your help, or if there is anything I need to do in future regarding incident reporting, please let me know.

Thank you,

Stephanie Blanton

Radiation Safety Officer | Digirad Imaging Solutions

P: (713)-376-1892

stephanie.blanton@digirad.com | www.digirad.com



Delivering diagnostic imaging expertise. **As Needed. When Needed. Where Needed.**

From: Tomczak, Tammy <Tammy.Tomczak@nrc.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 27, 2021 8:39 AM
To: Stephanie Blanton <Stephanie.Blanton@digirad.com>
Subject: Acknowledgement - Amendment Request for License No. 10-29283-02

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Digirad domain. Do not click links, open attachments, or reply unless you verify the sender's email and know the content is safe.

Good morning, Ms. Blanton,

I am electronically transmitting the acknowledgement form that you would normally receive in the mail.

Please let me know if you have any questions, or require any additional information.

Thank you,

Tammy Tomczak
Licensing Assistant
630-829-9564

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