



NRC NEWS

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NRC TO DISCUSS DISMISSAL OF WORKER WITH PHILADELPHIA VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL CENTER

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with officials of the Philadelphia Veterans Administration Medical Center on May 17 to discuss a federal review board's decision regarding the termination of a former employee of the facility.

The predecisional enforcement conference will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Public Meeting at the NRC's Region I office in King of Prussia, Pa. It will be open to the public for observation.

In April 1998, a research nurse at the medical center was notified that her employment would be terminated as of May 15, 1998. The worker subsequently challenged the decision before the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, alleging the termination occurred in response to safety concerns she had raised. In addition, the nurse asserted said she was subjected to intolerable working conditions prior to her dismissal.

On April 16, 1999, an administrative law judge for the board issued an initial decision ordering the hospital to reinstate the worker, with back pay.

NRC staff hopes to gather more information about the case at the meeting on May 17 in order to render its own decision on the matter.

Indeed, the decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that the NRC has determined a violation has occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. Rather, the purpose is to discuss apparent violations, their causes and safety significance, and to enable the licensee to outline any proposed corrective action.

No decision on the apparent violations will be made at this conference. That decision will be made by NRC officials at a later time.

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