



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs, Region I
475 Allendale Road, King of Prussia, Pa.
Web Site: <http://www.nrc.gov/OPA>

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NOTE -- MEETING TIME HAS BEEN CHANGED TO BEGIN ONE HOUR LATER
MEETING IS NOW SCHEDULED TO BEGIN AT 2:00 p.m.

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NRC OFFICIALS TO MEET WITH PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL TO DISCUSS OVERSIGHT OF RADIATION SAFETY PROGRAM

Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials will meet with officials of Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center on Wednesday, February 16, to discuss oversight of the radiation safety program at the Pottsville, Pa., facility.

During an NRC inspection at Good Samaritan in November, 12 apparent violations were identified and are being considered for escalated enforcement by the NRC. NRC inspectors observed that the hospital does not actively oversee its brachytherapy program and has relied on a single authorized user and a consultant to ensure the program is in compliance with NRC regulations. In a letter sent to the hospital forwarding the inspection report, George Pangburn, Director of the Region I Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, said the apparent violations indicated "an inadequate control" of the hospital's brachytherapy program. (Brachytherapy is a radiation therapy in which radioactive material - "seeds" - are placed in the body to treat a variety of cancers and other diseases.) The apparent violations did not cause danger to the public or patients.

The meeting, called a predecisional enforcement conference, will begin at **2:00 p.m.**, **rescheduled from 1:00**, in the Public Meeting Room at the NRC Region I Office, 475 Allendale Road in King of Prussia. During the conference, the licensee will be given the opportunity to address the apparent violations. The public is invited to observe the meeting, and NRC officials will be available at the conclusion of the meeting to answer any questions.

The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that a determination has been made that violations have occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. The purpose is to discuss the apparent violations, causes and safety significance, to provide the licensee with an opportunity to point out any errors in the NRC inspection report and to enable the company to outline its corrective actions.

No decision on the apparent violations or any contemplated enforcement action, such as a civil penalty, will be made at the conference. Those decisions will be made by NRC officials at a later time.

If issued, the enforcement action will be available online in the NRC's electronic reading room at: www.nrc.gov/what-we-do/regulatory/enforcement/current.html#materials. The details of the apparent violation are described in an NRC letter to the facility, which can be accessed online at: www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html by entering accession number ML050280105 as a search term.

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