

No: IV-19-019 December 19, 2019

Contact: Victor Dricks, 817-200-1128

NRC Proposes \$7,250 Fine to Stillwater Mining Co.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is proposing a \$7,250 fine to the Stillwater Mining Co., of Nye, Mont., for failing to have a named individual perform the duties and responsibilities of a radiation safety officer.

The violation of NRC requirements was identified in a Sept. 27, 2019, <u>inspection report</u>. It involved a nearly four-year failure by the company. Without a radiation safety officer, the company had no individual responsible for implementing the radiation safety program to ensure that safety significant issues are identified, corrected and reported to the NRC as required.

Eventual effective comprehensive corrective actions were taken; however, prompt corrective actions were not taken to restore compliance when the violation was identified during a third-party assessment in February 2019. The violation was not addressed until after it was identified by an NRC inspector in June 2019, as noted in a <u>letter</u> to the company.

Company officials responded to the NRC's preliminary finding in a <u>letter</u> dated Oct. 25, 2019. The company has 30 days to dispute the fine or request involvement of a third-party mediator to resolve the issue.