NRC Proposes $17,500 Civil Penalty to Century Geophysical

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has proposed a $17,500 civil penalty to Century Geophysical of Tulsa, Oklahoma, for seven violations of NRC requirements associated with their use of radioactive materials.

The NRC identified the apparent violations of agency requirements during inspections conducted between December 2022 and March 2023, with continued in-office review through July 2023. The company uses radioactive materials licensed by the NRC to perform diagnostic studies in oil and gas wells.

The proposed violations involve Century Geophysical’s failure to follow regulatory requirements for the use of licensed radioactive materials, including properly securing the materials and training staff on those methods and maintaining all required documents and records at both of the company’s offices.

Details of the inspection and the apparent violations were documented in a Sept. 8, 2023, report. The company responded to the NRC in a Sept. 30, 2023, letter.

The NRC made its enforcement decision after reviewing the circumstances surrounding the apparent violations, the immediate actions taken in response, the apparent cause and corrective actions taken to prevent recurrence.

The company has 30 days to pay the fine, dispute the fine, or request involvement from a neutral third-party mediator to resolve the issue.