

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Public Affairs, Region I
475 Allendale Road King of Prussia, PA 19401
Phone: 610/337-5330 Fax: 610/337-5241
Internet: dps@nrc.gov or nas@nrc.gov

I-97-7

Contact: Diane Screnci
Neil A. Sheehan

January 28, 1997

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NRC STAFF TO MEET WITH OFFICIALS OF KENNEDY MEMORIAL HOSPITALS -
UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER TO DISCUSS APPARENT VIOLATIONS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with officials of Kennedy Memorial Hospitals - University Medical Center (Stratford Division) on Wednesday, January 29, to discuss apparent violations of NRC requirements. The predecisional enforcement conference will begin at 1 p.m. at the NRC's Region I office in King of Prussia, Pa. It will be open to the public for observation only.

An inspection conducted on October 31 and November 6 of last year found six apparent violations of NRC requirements. They are: failure to maintain dose rates in contiguous unrestricted patient rooms below regulatory limits; failure to perform dose estimates for patients in unrestricted rooms where dose rates exceeded the regulatory limits; release of a therapy patient's room with removable contamination in excess of allowable limits; failure to adequately train personnel in iodine-131 radiopharmaceutical therapy procedures; failure to establish a quorum at the Radiation Safety Committee meetings; and failure to store certain radioactive material for the required time interval prior to disposal in the regular trash.

The decision to hold a pre-decisional enforcement conference does not mean that the NRC has determined that a violation has occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. Rather, the purpose is to discuss apparent violations, their causes and safety significance; to provide the licensee an opportunity to point out any errors that may have been made in the NRC inspection report; and to enable the licensee to outline its proposed corrective actions. No decision on the apparent violations will be made at this conference. Those decisions will be made by senior NRC officials at a later time.

#