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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NRC STAFF TO MEET WITH UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS OFFICIALS
TO DISCUSS APPARENT VIOLATIONS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with officials of the University of Massachusetts on Thursday, February 27, to discuss apparent violations of NRC requirements. The predecisional enforcement conference, which begins at 1 p.m., will be held in the Region I Office, 475 Allendale Road, in King of Prussia, Pa. It is open to the public for observation.

A routine NRC inspection conducted on February 4-6 at the University of Massachusetts' Medical Center, 55 Lave Avenue North and 373 Plantation Street, in Worcester, Mass., found five laboratories where radioactive materials were unsecured and unattended. NRC regulations require that licensed materials be secured against unauthorized removal or access. After the inspection, the NRC staff issued a confirmatory action letter documenting the university's commitments to enhance its program for radioactive material security and control.

The decision to hold a predecisional 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.

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