

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

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Contact: Diane Screnci
Neil A. Sheehan

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NRC, VA MEDICAL CENTER IN BALTIMORE TO DISCUSS
APPARENT VIOLATIONS OF AGENCY REQUIREMENTS AT FACILITY

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with officials from the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center on Wednesday, April 30, to discuss apparent violations of agency requirements at the Baltimore, Maryland, facility. The predecisional enforcement conference will begin at 10 a.m. in the public meeting room at NRC Region 1 offices in King of Prussia, Pa.

This meeting will be open to the public for observation only.

The violations were identified during a routine inspection conducted at the center on February 26, 27 and March 13. Chief among the NRC's areas of concern are the inadequate security of radioactive materials in the nuclear medicine department; excessive radiation dose rates in unrestricted areas; and the licensee's failure to use signed written directives prior to iodine-131 dose administration to patients.

The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean the NRC has determined 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 NRC inspection reports; 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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