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NRC, VA MEDICAL CENTER IN WILMINGTON, DELAWARE, TO DISCUSS APPARENT VIOLATIONS OF AGENCY REQUIREMENTS

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet on Thursday, May 1, with officials from the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Wilmington, Delaware, to discuss apparent violations of agency requirements involving radioactive medical services at the 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.

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

Five apparent violations were identified during an inspection of the center conducted on March 26. They include: failure to prepare written directives prior to the administration of radioactive medical treatments; failure to conduct reviews to verify compliance with all aspects of the quality management program at intervals of no greater than 12 months; failure to measure each six months the ventilation rates available in areas where radioactive gas is used; failure of the center's Radiation Safety Committee to meet at least quarterly; and failure to establish a quorum at Radiation Safety Committee meetings.

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 with 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 decisions 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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