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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NRC STAFF TO MEET WITH PENN STATE OFFICIALS
TO DISCUSS APPARENT VIOLATIONS OF NRC REQUIREMENTS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with officials of the Pennsylvania State University on Friday, December 20, to discuss apparent violations of NRC requirements.

The pre-decisional enforcement conference, which is open to the public for observation, will be held in the NRC's regional office in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

An NRC inspection of the University's radiation protection program, conducted from November 18 through 20 at the school's University Park Campus and surrounding areas, included a review of the organization and scope of the program and management oversight, equipment and instrumentation, training, surveys and contamination control, radiation protection and radioactive waste management.

Seven apparent violations were found, including: failure to secure from unauthorized removal or limit access to licensed materials that are stored in controlled or unrestricted areas; storage of licensed material at an unauthorized location; failure to provide dosimetry to a worker whose exposure exceeded 1 microcurie/hour/week; and failure to perform an annual review of the radiation protection program content and implementation.

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.

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