

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Public Affairs, Region I
475 Allendale Road King of Prussia, PA 19406 Fax: 610/337-5241
Internet: dps@nrc.gov or nas@nrc.gov

I-99-8

January 22, 1999

Contact: Diane Screnci (610/337-5330)
Neil A. Sheehan (610/337-5331)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NRC TO DISCUSS APPARENT VIOLATIONS WITH CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff and officials of Hartford Hospital will meet on Tuesday, January 26, to discuss apparent violations of agency requirements at the Hartford, Conn., medical facility relating to the loss of control and unauthorized disposal of radioactive material.

The predecisional enforcement conference, which will be open to the public for observation, will begin at 1 p.m. in the Main Conference Room of the NRC Region I Office in King of Prussia, Pa.

On December 10, the NRC learned that radioactive material had been detected in a dumpster at an incinerator in the Hartford area. The container had been transported to the incinerator from the hospital. The material was subsequently removed from the dumpster and kept for decay-in-storage at Hartford Hospital.

During a follow-up inspection at the hospital on December 14, NRC staff found five apparent violations, including unauthorized disposal of radioactive material; failure to control and maintain constant surveillance of radioactive material; failure to label containers holding radioactive material; failure to perform radioactive surveys; and failure to adequately train personnel regarding the handling of radioactive material.

The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that 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 the NRC inspection report; and to enable the licensee to outline its proposed corrective action.

No decision on the apparent violations will be made at this conference. That decision will be made by NRC officials at a later time.

2

#