

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Tuesday, April 20, 1999)

NRC STAFF SETS ENFORCEMENT CONFERENCE WITH ALABAMA COMPANY TO DISCUSS APPARENT VIOLATION OF NRC REGULATIONS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled a predecisional enforcement conference in Atlanta on Thursday, April 22, to discuss with Code Services, Inc. of Madison, Alabama an apparent violation of NRC requirements related to the use of radiation alarms during radiographic operations.

The meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. at the NRC's Region II office, located in the Atlanta Federal Center at 61 Forsyth Street on the 24th floor. It is open to observation by interested members of the public and news media representatives. NRC officials will be available at its conclusion to answer questions from interested observers.

NRC officials said an NRC inspection in March determined that, while the company was doing radiographic work at the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama during February, a radiographer's assistant entered a radiography boundary without an alarm ratemeter while radiographic equipment was being used. Radiographic equipment uses a radioactive source to make x-ray-like images of piping and other industrial systems. In 1998, Code Services had also been cited twice by the State of Alabama for failures to properly use alarm ratemeters in areas under state jurisdiction.

The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that a determination has been made that a violation has occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. The purpose is to discuss the apparent violation, its causes and safety significance; to provide the licensee with an opportunity to point out 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 or any contemplated enforcement action, such as a civil penalty, will be made at the conference. Those decisions will be made by NRC officials at a later time.

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