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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NRC STAFF TO MEET WITH NORTH JERSEY HOSPITAL OFFICIALS
TO DISCUSS APPARENT VIOLATIONS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with officials of Overlook Hospital in Summit, N.J., on Wednesday, July 16, to discuss apparent violations of NRC requirements. The meeting, which is open to the public for observation, begins at 1:00. It will be held in the NRC's Regional Office in King of Prussia, Pa.

Two apparent violations were found during an NRC inspection at the hospital on May 7. These apparent violations, failure to prepare a written directive prior to administration of a radiopharmaceutical and failure to provide adequate supervision over licensed activities, contributed to a misadministration on May 5. A patient was administered approximately 7 millicuries of iodine-131 rather than the intended dose of approximately 2 millicuries. (A misadministration occurs when the administered dosage differs from the prescribed dosage by more than 20 percent.)

The decision to hold a predecisional 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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