



NRC NEWS

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, REGION II

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NRC PROPOSES \$3,000 CIVIL PENALTY AGAINST PUERTO RICO COMPANY FOR VIOLATION OF NRC RADIATION SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$3,000 civil penalty against Plaza Nuclear Imaging of Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, for violation of NRC safety requirements related to contamination monitoring of radioactive materials.

In a letter dated September 12, Luis A. Reyes, administrator of the NRC's Region II office in Atlanta, told company officials that NRC inspections and an investigation by the agency's Office of Investigations had concluded that five violations had occurred. The NRC said the company failed to use an adequate detector to detect radioactive contamination on wipe samples; failed to survey weekly as required for removable contamination in areas where radiopharmaceuticals were routinely administered, used or stored; failed to test sealed radioactive sources for leakage at required intervals; failed to monitor surfaces of incoming labeled packages for radioactive contamination; and failed to maintain complete and accurate records of monitoring of incoming labeled packages.

The NRC said no actual radiological consequences occurred as a result of the violations but that the civil penalty was being proposed because NRC investigators found that the radiation safety officer at the facility knew and understood requirements for contamination surveys but chose to proceed with licensed activities in violation of NRC requirements from June, 2000, until the NRC's intervention in August of 2001.

The company has 30 days from receipt of the Notice of Violation to either pay the civil penalty or to protest its imposition.

A copy of the letter, its enclosures and any company responses will be made available from the NRC's Region II public affairs office at the above email and telephone addresses and electronically from the NRC Public Document Room in Washington, D.C., at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/ADAMS.html> .

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