



NRC NEWS

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NRC TO DISCUSS APPARENT VIOLATION INVOLVING NUCLEAR GAUGE WITH N.J. FIRM

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with representatives of a New Jersey company on Thursday, September 26, to discuss an apparent violation of agency requirements. The apparent violation by Craig Testing Laboratories, Inc., involves failure to maintain constant surveillance of a portable nuclear density gauge in use at a construction site. The device was subsequently damaged.

The predecisional enforcement conference is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. in the Public Meeting Room at the NRC Region I office in King of Prussia, Pa. The meeting will be open to the public for observation, with NRC officials available to answer questions prior to adjournment.

Craig Testing is based in Mays Landing, N.J. An NRC inspection determined that on July 15, an employee of the firm was using the gauge, which contains radioactive material and can be used to measure soil density, in a trench at Hopewell Valley High School in Pennington (Mercer County), N.J. At one point, the gauge user was asked to move his vehicle to allow construction equipment to pass. While doing that, he lost visual contact with the device and it was damaged by a forklift.

While no one was injured as a result of the event, and the radioactive material inside was found to be intact, a failure to maintain constant surveillance of a gauge in use represents an apparent violation of NRC requirements.

The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that the NRC has made a final determination that a violation did occur or that enforcement action, such as a fine, is warranted. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the apparent violation, its causes and its safety significance. The meeting will also provide the company with an opportunity to address any errors that may have been made in the NRC inspection report and to present its corrective actions.

No decision on the apparent violation or any possible enforcement action will be made at the conference. Those decisions will be made by senior NRC officials at a later time.

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