



NRC NEWS

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

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NRC PROPOSES \$9,000 FINE AGAINST UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO FOR VIOLATING NRC RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$9,000 civil penalty against the University of Puerto Rico for violations of NRC safety requirements.

NRC inspections conducted in February, March and June 2002, and an investigation by the NRC's Office of Investigations in August 2002 resulted in the university being cited for three separate violations characterized as Severity Level 3, the agency's third most serious. NRC officials said that during late 2001 and early 2002, the university failed to survey all areas where radiopharmaceuticals were administered at the end of the day as required by NRC regulations. The second violation was issued because the NRC determined that the university failed to calibrate radiation detection instruments as required. The third violation resulted from the failure of a nuclear medicine technologist employed by the university to notify the university's radiation safety officer when unexpectedly high radiation levels were discovered. The university has taken a number of corrective actions to address the violations and the NRC is satisfied with those actions.

Due to the willful nature of these violations and the fact that they were identified during an NRC inspection and investigation, the NRC is issuing the base civil penalty of \$3,000 for each of the three violations, resulting in a cumulative fine of \$9,000.

The university has 30 days from receipt of the NRC Notice of Violation to either pay the civil penalty or to protest its imposition, in whole or in part.

Members of the public may obtain copies of the letter from the NRC to the university from the Region II public affairs office by e-mail at OPA2@nrc.gov or calling 404-562-4416 or 4417. The letter also will be available on the NRC Web Site at www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html (the public electronic reading room). If you need help with the electronic reading room, please contact the Public Document Room at 1-800-397-4209 or e-mail pdr@nrc.gov

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