



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20555 - 0001

February 28, 2003

IA 02-048

Ms. Linda Monroe
**HOME ADDRESS DELETED
UNDER 2.790**

SUBJECT: ORDER PROHIBITING INVOLVEMENT IN NRC-LICENSED ACTIVITIES
(NRC Office of Investigations Report No. 1-2001-031)

Dear Ms. Monroe:

The enclosed Order Prohibiting Involvement in NRC-Licensed Activities is being issued to you based on the findings by the NRC Office of Investigations (OI) that you deliberately caused your former employer, United Evaluation Services (UES), previously known as Accurate Technologies Incorporated, to be in violation of NRC requirements. A factual summary of the results of the investigation was sent to you on November 6, 2002. The violations, which occurred while you were in the position of Assistant Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) at UES, are described in the enclosed Order to you.

A predecisional enforcement conference was held with you on November 19, 2002, to discuss the violations, their causes, and your corrective actions. At that conference, you acknowledged the violations, but denied the violations were deliberate or that you intended to mislead anyone. You stated that you felt pressured by UES management into doing things the wrong way, but in the future, you would not allow that to happen.

After careful review of this matter, the NRC has concluded, for the reasons set forth in the enclosed Order, that you deliberately caused UES to be in violation of certain requirements. Therefore, your actions constitute violations of 10 CFR 30.10(a)(1), which prohibits an employee of a licensee from engaging in deliberate misconduct that causes a licensee to be in violation of any rule, regulation, order, or condition of the license. In particular, your deliberate actions caused UES, an NRC licensee, to be in violation of 10 CFR 30.9, which requires that information required by the license to be maintained shall be complete and accurate in all material respects. Details regarding the violations are provided in the enclosed Order.

Based on the above, the NRC considered prohibiting you from performing radiography. However, the NRC found that you deliberately violated requirements primarily while acting in the role of the RSO, not while performing radiography. Therefore, the NRC is issuing the enclosed Order prohibiting only your involvement in the management, oversight, or supervision of licensed activities for one year from the date of issuance of this letter and Order. You are required to provide an answer to the Order within 20 days of the date of this letter. Your answer must either consent to the Order or address the subjects as specified in Section VI of

L. Monro

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the Order. Pursuant to Section 223 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2273, any person who willfully violates, attempts to violate, or conspires to violate any provision of this Order shall be subject to criminal prosecution as set forth in that section.

Questions concerning this Order may be addressed to Frank Congel, Director, Office of Enforcement. Mr. Congel can be reached at (301) 415-2741.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures with your home address removed, and any response will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publically Available Records (PARS) component of the NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Carl J. Paperiello
Deputy Executive Director
for Materials, Research and State Programs

Enclosure: Order Prohibiting Involvement in NRC-Licensed Activities

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of
MS. LINDA MONRO

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IA 02-048

ORDER PROHIBITING INVOLVEMENT IN
NRC-LICENSED ACTIVITIES)

I

Ms. Linda Monro (Ms. Monro) was formerly Assistant Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) of United Evaluation Services (UES)(Licensee), also previously known as Accurate Technologies Incorporated. UES was the holder of Byproduct Nuclear Material License No. 29-28358-02 issued by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or Commission) pursuant to 10 CFR Part 30. The license authorized UES to possess and use sealed sources for use in industrial radiography and depleted uranium for shielding material. The license, which was issued on November 16, 2001, was due to expire on November 30, 2011 but was subsequently terminated on January 6, 2003.

II

On September 25, 2001, an event occurred at the McShane facility in Baltimore, Maryland, involving a radiation injury to one of the Licensee's radiographers. This event was discussed with the Licensee on October 4, 2001. During the discussions, the NRC learned that the radiographer received a very significant radiation exposure to his hands in excess of regulatory limits (at a minimum, approximately 250-300 rem) while performing radiography at that facility.

Since the facility was located in Maryland, an NRC Agreement State, the activities related to that exposure were within the jurisdiction of the State of Maryland.

Although this event occurred while the radiographer was performing activities in an NRC Agreement State, the same equipment was possessed and used pursuant to an NRC license. Therefore, NRC inspections were conducted at the Licensee's facilities in New Jersey during October 2001. Subsequent inspections were also conducted in November 2001 and in May 2002. In addition, the NRC Office of Investigations conducted an investigation, between October 31, 2001 and August 14, 2002, of the Licensee's activities. Based on the inspection and investigation, the NRC has determined, among other things, that Ms. Monroe deliberately backdated or created false records of activities conducted at the facilities before the NRC inspection was initiated in October 2001. Specifically, Ms. Monroe:

1. Created a Radiation Report, dated September 8, 2001, which indicated that Ms. Monroe was the radiographer of record when radiography was performed on that date in Paulsboro, New Jersey. The report, which was required to be maintained pursuant to 10 CFR 34.71, was inaccurate in that the radiography was actually performed by another individual (who was not certified to perform radiography) rather than Ms. Monroe. Ms. Monroe's actions in creating this inaccurate report were deliberate in that Ms. Monroe admitted, during an enforcement conference conducted on November 19, 2002, that she was not at the Paulsboro site on that date, and she knew, at the time she completed the inaccurate record, that she was not at the Paulsboro site on that date; testimony of other licensee employees confirmed that Ms. Monroe did not perform radiography at the Paulsboro site on that date; and Ms. Monroe testified to OI, during an interview on April 11, 2002, that she was not working with the Licensee from late August 2001 until

September 18, 2001, and therefore she could not have performed radiography for the Licensee on September 8, 2001.

In addition, Ms. Monro created a Sign Out Log entry, dated September 8, 2001, which indicated that Ms. Monro was the radiographer using the exposure device to perform radiography work on that date. The Sign Out Log, which was required to be maintained pursuant to 10 CFR 34.85, was inaccurate in that the radiography survey was not performed by Ms. Monro. Ms. Monro's actions in creating this inaccurate record were deliberate in that Ms. Monro admitted, during an enforcement conference conducted on November 19, 2002, that she created the Sign Out Log record to support that she had performed the radiography on September 8, 2001, and the evidence shows she knew she had not performed the radiography on that date.

2. Created a Radiation Report, dated September 9, 2001, which indicated that Ms. Monro was the radiographer of record when radiography was performed on that date in Linden, New Jersey. The report, which was required to be maintained pursuant to 10 CFR 34.71, was inaccurate in that the radiography was actually performed by another individual rather than Ms. Monro. Ms. Monro's actions in creating this inaccurate report were deliberate in that Ms. Monro testified to OI that she was not working with the Licensee from late August 2001 until September 18, 2001, and therefore she could not have been performing radiography for the licensee on September 9, 2001. Further, another licensee employee testified that he performed the radiography at that location on that date, and Ms. Monro was not present. The evidence also shows she knew she had not performed the work on that date when she created the Radiation Report.

3. Created a Quarterly Field Audit record, dated September 8, 2001, which indicated that Ms. Monro conducted an audit of an assistant radiographer who was performing licensed activities at the Paulsboro site on September 8, 2001. The record, which was required to be maintained pursuant to 10 CFR 34.79, was inaccurate in that Ms. Monro was not at the Paulsboro site on that date. Ms. Monro's actions in creating this inaccurate record were deliberate in that Ms. Monro admitted, during an enforcement conference conducted on November 19, 2002, that she was not at the Paulsboro site on that date, and she knew at the time she completed the record that she had not conducted the audit.

4. Created a Radiation Monitoring Equipment Quarterly Inspection, Inventory and Assignment Log, dated September 10, 2001, which indicated that Ms. Monro completed a quarterly inspection of the licensee's radiation monitoring equipment. The log, which was required to be maintained pursuant to 10 CFR 34.73, was inaccurate in that Ms. Monro did not complete an inspection/inventory of the equipment on that date. Ms. Monro's actions in creating this inaccurate log were deliberate in that Ms. Monro admitted, during an interview with the OI investigator on April 11, 2002, that she signed the Log (which indicated that she conducted the inspection/inventory) even though she believed that it was conducted by someone other than herself; and Ms. Monro also testified to OI, during that interview on April 11, 2002, that she was not working with the Licensee from late August 2001 until September 18, 2001, and therefore she could not have conducted the inspection/inventory on September 10, 2001.

III

The NRC's requirements in 10 CFR 30.10(a)(1) prohibit an individual from engaging in deliberate misconduct that causes or, but for detection, would have caused, a licensee to be in violation of any rule, regulation, or order, or any term, condition, or limitation of any license, issued by the Commission. Based on the above, the NRC has concluded that Ms. Monro, as the Assistant RSO of UES, violated 10 CFR 30.10. The violations are significant because the potential exists to cause serious harm or injury if unqualified persons are involved in the performance of radiography.

IV

The NRC must be able to rely on the Licensee, and Licensee employees, to comply with NRC requirements, including the requirement to maintain information that is complete and accurate in all material respects. Although the NRC has not found evidence that Ms. Monro, who was also a radiographer, had deliberately violated any requirements while performing licensed activities as a radiographer, Ms. Monro's deliberate violation of Commission regulations as the Assistant RSO raises serious questions as to whether she can be relied upon to manage, supervise, or oversee any licensed activities to assure compliance with NRC requirements, including the requirement to maintain complete and accurate information.

Consequently, I lack the requisite reasonable assurance that licensed activities can be conducted in compliance with the Commission's requirements and that the health and safety of the public would be protected if Linda Monro were permitted at this time to be involved in the management, supervision, or oversight of NRC-licensed activities. Therefore, the NRC has

determined that the public health, safety and interest require that Ms. Monro be prohibited from any management, supervision, or oversight of persons involved in NRC-licensed activities for a period of one year from the date of this Order. If Ms. Monro is currently involved in the management, supervision, or oversight of NRC-licensed activities at any NRC licensed facility, Ms. Monro must immediately cease such activities, and inform the NRC of the name, address and telephone number of the employer, and provide a copy of this Order to the employer.

Accordingly, pursuant to Sections 81, 161b, 161i, 161o, 182 and 186 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and the Commission's regulations in 10 CFR 2.202, 10 CFR 30.10, and 10 CFR 150.20, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Linda Monro is prohibited from managing, supervising, or overseeing NRC-licensed activities or individuals while they are engaged in licensed activities, including (but not limited to) the duties of a Radiation Safety Officer, for one (1) year effective from the issuance of this Order, except that Ms. Monro may supervise an assistant radiographer when acting as a radiographer engaging in NRC licensed activities. NRC-licensed activities are those activities that are conducted pursuant to a specific or general license issued by the NRC, including, but not limited to, those activities of Agreement State licensees conducted pursuant to the authority granted by 10 CFR 150.20.

2. If Linda Monro is currently involved in the management, supervision, or oversight of NRC-licensed activities, Ms. Monro must immediately cease such activities, and inform the NRC of the name, address and telephone number of the employer, and provide a copy of this Order to the employer.

The Director, Office of Enforcement, may, in writing, relax or rescind any of the above conditions upon demonstration by Ms. Monro of good cause.

VI

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.202, Linda Monro must, and any other person adversely affected by this Order may, submit an answer to this Order, and may request a hearing on this Order, within 20 days of the date of this Order. Where good cause is shown, consideration will be given to extending the time to request a hearing. A request for extension of time must be made in writing to the Director, Office of Enforcement, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, D.C. 20555, and include a statement of good cause for the extension. The answer may consent to this Order. Unless the answer consents to this Order, the answer shall, in writing and under oath or affirmation, specifically admit or deny each allegation or charge made in this Order and shall set forth the matters of fact and law on which Ms. Monro or other person adversely affected relies and the reasons as to why the Order should not have been issued. Any answer or request for a hearing shall be submitted to the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Attn: Chief, Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff, Washington, D.C. 20555. Copies also shall be sent to the Director, Office of Enforcement, U.S. Nuclear

Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, to the Assistant General Counsel for Materials Litigation and Enforcement at the same address, to the Regional Administrator, NRC Region I, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory, 475 Allendale Road, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406, and to Ms. Monro if the answer or hearing request is by a person other than Ms. Monro.

Because of continuing disruptions in delivery of mail to United States Government offices, it is requested that answers and requests for hearing be transmitted to the Secretary of the Commission either by means of facsimile transmission to 301-415-1101 or by e-mail to hearingdocket@nrc.gov and also to the Assistant General Counsel either by means of facsimile transmission to 301-415-3725 or by e-mail to OGCMailCenter@nrc.gov. If a person other than Ms. Monro requests a hearing, that person shall set forth with particularity the manner in which his interest is adversely affected by this Order and shall address the criteria set forth in 10 C.F.R. § 2.714(d).¹

If a hearing is requested by Ms. Monro or a person whose interest is adversely affected, the Commission will issue an Order designating the time and place of any hearing. If a hearing is held, the issue to be considered at such hearing shall be whether this Order should be sustained.

¹ The most recent version of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, published January 1, 2002, inadvertently omitted the last sentence of 10 CFR 2.714 (d) and paragraphs (d)(1) and (d)(2) regarding petitions to intervene and contentions. For the complete, corrected text of 10 CFR 2.714 (d), please see 67 FR 20884; April 29, 2002.

In the absence of any request for hearing, or written approval of an extension of time in which to request a hearing, the provisions specified in Section V above shall be final twenty (20) days from the date of this Order without further Order or proceedings. If an extension of time for requesting a hearing has been approved, the provisions specified in Section V shall be final when the extension expires if a hearing request has not been received.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

Carl J. Paperiello,
Deputy Executive Director
for Materials, Research, and State Programs

Dated this 28th day of February 2003