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NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$6,500 FINE FOR SECURITY VIOLATIONS AT MATERIALS TESTING FACILITY IN PENNSYLVANIA

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$6,500 fine against MISTRAS Holding Group of Carol Stream, Ill., for failing to institute certain security measures at its Conam Inspection and Engineering Services facility in Trainer, Penn.

The company holds an NRC license for the use of sealed radiation sources to perform radiography, a non-destructive testing technique which uses radiation to produce x-ray-like images of heavy metal objects.

In November 2005, the NRC issued an Order to MISTRAS and to similar firms, imposing certain additional security requirements for the storage and protection of the radiation sources. An inspection by the NRC's Region I office in King of Prussia, Penn., in June and July 2006 identified five violations of NRC security requirements associated with that Order including two that are subject of the proposed fine.

“The \$6,500 fine is being proposed because the company failed to take the necessary security precautions intended to properly safeguard the radioactive materials used in their inspection work,” said James Caldwell, Regional Administrator of the NRC's Region III Office which oversees the licensed work by MISTRAS at several facilities across the country. “Those security violations were promptly corrected,” he added, “and the Trainer facility now maintains adequate security for its radioactive materials.”

MISTRAS has until March 23 to pay the fine or to protest it. If the fine is protested and subsequently imposed by the NRC staff, the company may request a hearing.

Because the violations involved security measures at the facility, the details of the requirements and the violations are not being publicly disclosed.

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