



UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, REGION I
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NRC STAFF CITES NUCLEAR METALS, INC., FOR ALLEGED VIOLATION OF REGULATIONS INVOLVING TRANSPORTATION OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS; PROPOSES \$2,000 FINE

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has cited Nuclear Metals, Inc., of Concord, Massachusetts, for an alleged violation of NRC and U. S. Department of Transportation regulations involving the transportation of radioactive materials. The staff has proposed a \$2,000 fine.

The proposed fine is the result of an inspection of a shipment of low-level radioactive waste that was shipped by truck from Nuclear Metals on June 15, 1980, and arrived at the Chem-Nuclear Systems, Inc., burial site in Barnwell, S.C. on June 19, 1980.

The inspection, conducted by an NRC inspector at the Barnwell burial site, disclosed that the radiation level in a normally occupied position in the cab of the vehicle was 5 millirem per hour. Regulations limit the radiation dose rate in any normally occupied position in the vehicle to 2 millirem per hour.

The shipment consisted of contaminated trash, depleted uranium chips embedded in cement and depleted uranium oxide powder, all transported in 55-gallon drums.

The company has 25 days to pay the proposed fine or protest, in writing, the imposition of all or part of it. The company also has 25 days to describe to the NRC the corrective action it has taken or will take to prevent a recurrence of further items of noncompliance.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has been informed of this proposed enforcement action.

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