



UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, REGION I
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NRC STAFF CITES CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS FIRM FOR ALLEGED VIOLATION OF TRANSPORTATION REQUIREMENTS: PROPOSES \$5,000 FINE

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has cited Nuclear Metals, Inc., Concord, Massachusetts, for alleged noncompliance with NRC and U. S. Department of Transportation radioactive material transportation requirements. The staff has proposed a \$5,000 civil penalty.

The proposed fine is based on a November 20, 1980 NRC inspection of a shipment of low-level radioactive waste from the Nuclear Metals facility in Concord, Massachusetts to the Nuclear Engineering Company waste burial site in Richland, Washington.

The inspection, conducted at the burial site, disclosed that one of the 80 steel drums included in the shipment had leaked radioactive liquid. NRC and U.S. DOT regulations require that radioactive waste be transported in strong tight packages so that there will be no leakage of radioactive materials under normal transportation conditions.

A survey of the outer surface of the drums and the inner surfaces of the trailer in which the drums were shipped indicated only minor radioactive contamination resulted from the leaking drum.

The company has 25 days to either pay the proposed fine or protest its imposition in whole or in part. It also has 25 days to describe the corrective action it has taken or will take to avoid further items of noncompliance.

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

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