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NRC Issues \$7,000 Fine to Southwest X-Ray Corp.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has proposed fining Southwest X-Ray Corp. of Glenrock, Wyo., \$7,000 for two violations of NRC regulations. The company uses radiography cameras to photograph pipe welds.

The violations involve the company's failure to ensure that a qualified radiographer accompany and supervise a radiographer's assistant while conducting radiographic operations. The violations were caused by a lack of communication between a radiographer and his assistant when the radiographer left a shop to answer a telephone call while operations were still being performed by the assistant. The radiographer's assistant told NRC he thought the radiographer was still in the area, and the radiographer said he thought the assistant knew he had left the area.

The violations were identified by an NRC inspector on July 8, during an unannounced inspection of the company's facility in Casper, Wyo.

An enforcement conference was held on Sept 12, 2013 during which company officials provided NRC staff with additional information. The NRC staff has decided that a civil penalty is appropriate for the two violations because comprehensive corrective actions taken by the company have not been completed.

Copies of the enforcement action will be posted on the NRC web site. The results of the NRC inspection can be found in ADAMS under Accession ML 13233A167.

The company has 30 days in which to appeal the decision, or 10 days to request alternate dispute resolution, using a neutral third-party mediator.