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NRC Proposes \$3,500 Fine For an Indianapolis Engineering Consulting Company

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$3,500 civil penalty to ATC Group Services, Inc., for the failure to ensure the security of a portable gauge containing a low level of radioactive material. The company, based in Indianapolis, Ind., uses portable nuclear gauges to perform soil density measurements.

The violation was identified during an NRC inspection and an investigation into the theft of a nuclear gauge from an employee's vehicle. The NRC staff concluded the company violated NRC requirements by failing to secure the gauge while it was in an unrestricted area. Specifically, a company employee left the gauge in the back of an open-bed truck in a store parking lot in Indianapolis, Ind., with the truck door unlocked and the keys in the ignition. Subsequently, the vehicle was stolen and the gauge has not been recovered to date.

“Even though the potential consequences from this violation would have very low safety significance, our action underscores the expectation that NRC license holders will adhere to federal requirements to maintain the security of sealed nuclear sources,” said NRC Region III Administrator Cynthia D. Pederson. “These requirements are geared towards preventing unnecessary exposure to members of the public.”

ATC Group Services has to pay the fine or submit a letter protesting it by December 20, 2014.

The company took immediate and long-term actions to address the violation and prevent recurrence.

The NRC will conduct an inspection to verify that the company's actions to correct the problem are thorough and sustainable.

The NRC's [inspection report](#), the summary of the [investigation](#) and the [Notice of Violation](#) are available on the [NRC's website](#) in the [NRC's online document system](#).