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NRC Proposed \$3,500 Fine To An Indiana Engineering Consulting Company

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$3,500 civil penalty to Patriot Engineering and Environmental Inc. for the failure to maintain proper control of a portable moisture density gauge containing a low level of radioactive material. The company, based in Indianapolis, Ind., uses portable nuclear gauges for measuring physical qualities of construction materials.

The violation was identified during an NRC special inspection of an incident where a bulldozer ran over a moisture density gauge. The nuclear material remained in a shielded position and was not damaged. There was no radiation release and no negative impact on the health of the workers or the public.

The NRC staff concluded that the company violated NRC requirements by failing to make sure the gauge was under constant surveillance while it was in an unrestricted public area and to use two physical barriers to secure the gauge while it was not under observation. Specifically, a field technician went to his vehicle to record the results of the soil test he had just conducted and left the gauge unattended. A bulldozer ran over the gauge while the technician was at his vehicle.

“Our action underscores the expectation that NRC license holders will adhere to NRC requirements to make sure nuclear material is used safely,” said NRC Region III Administrator Cynthia D. Pederson. “An NRC license comes with the responsibility for making sure the use of nuclear material has no negative impact on the nuclear workers or the public.”

Patriot Engineering has to pay the fine or submit a letter protesting it by March 7.

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

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

The NRC’s [inspection report](#) is available on the [NRC’s website](#), and the Notice of Violation will be available shortly (use accession number ML15037A457).