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NRC Issues Confirmatory Order to the Department of Veterans Affairs

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued a [Confirmatory Order](#) to the Department of Veterans Affairs documenting an agreed upon set of actions to address two apparent violations of NRC requirements.

The apparent violations occurred when a nuclear medicine technician at the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System facility deliberately failed to complete a required test and falsified records related to that test. The VA holds a Master Materials License from the NRC, which authorizes federal organizations to use nuclear material at multiple sites.

The organization's officials requested the NRC's Alternative Dispute Resolution process, where a neutral mediator assists the NRC and its licensee in reaching an agreement regarding the corrective and preventative actions to be taken by the organization. The NRC could refrain from issuing a Notice of Violation or a Civil Penalty for the apparent violations.

The Order documents the commitments made by the VA following the March 2, 2022, ADR mediation session. The commitments include conducting a nationwide anonymous safety culture survey of VA employees working with nuclear materials; conducting safety culture training; and re-energizing the VA's employee concerns program related to reporting of radioactive program allegations or adverse events.

The agency's Dec. 2, 2021, [investigation report](#) describes the circumstances of the apparent violations and the VA's actions following the incident.