

No: III-17-017

June 28, 2017

CONTACT: Viktoria Mitlyng, 630-829-9662
Prema Chandrathil, 630-829-9663

NRC Issues Confirmatory Order to Tilden Mining Company, L.C.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued a Confirmatory Order to Tilden Mining Company, L.C., of Ishpeming, Mich., outlining actions that the company has agreed to take to implement its security program in accordance with NRC requirements.

Tilden Mining Company L.C., was issued an NRC license on July 3, 2014, authorizing the possession and use of fixed gauges and silica analyzers at the Tilden Mine in Marquette County, Mich.

The [order](#) formalizes commitments company officials made to the NRC following a [special inspection](#) of the radioactive materials security program conducted at the Tilden Mine site Sept. 12-13, 2016, with continued in-office review through Feb. 16, 2017. The NRC preliminarily determined that there were violations of certain security requirements. Details of security-related violations are not made public.

The company requested the Alternative Dispute Resolution process to resolve differences with the NRC concerning the issue and to discuss corrective actions. The process uses a neutral mediator with no decision-making authority to assist the NRC and its licensees in coming to an agreement.

“We expect companies authorized by the NRC to possess and use nuclear materials to ensure their security by adhering to applicable regulations and the conditions of their licenses,” said NRC Region III Administrator Cynthia D. Peterson. “We will verify that Tilden Mining has taken thorough corrective actions outlined in this order to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.”

As a result of the settlement agreement, Tilden Mining made a number of commitments in addition to the immediate actions to comply with security requirements. The company will: (1) establish a radioactive material oversight committee to oversee the implementation of the radiation safety and radioactive source security programs; (2) complete two effectiveness reviews of the corrective actions taken in response to the order to be conducted by an independent consultant; (3) track the implementation of the following items for five years from the date of the order - coordination of alarm system testing with the local law enforcement authority, corrective actions directed by the radioactive material oversight committee and maintenance of required security systems; and (4) conduct annual training for five years from the date of the order for affected personnel on access control and alarm response requirements and the company’s implementing procedures.

When Tilden Mining completes these commitments, the company is required to notify the NRC in writing, including a description of actions taken to that end. The NRC will conduct an independent review to make sure these actions meet the conditions of the order.