NRC Issues Confirmatory Order to Idaho State University

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued a Confirmatory Order to Idaho State University, which has agreed to a series of actions designed to improve its processes and procedures for the use of radioactive materials.

The Confirmatory Order is the result of the NRC’s Alternative Dispute Resolution process, which was requested by the university to address violations identified by the NRC in a Jan. 10, 2019, inspection report. The process involves mediation facilitated by a neutral third party with no decision-making authority, who assists the NRC and a licensee in reaching agreement when there are differences regarding an enforcement action.

In the inspection report, NRC identified one apparent violation considered for escalated enforcement involving the failure to secure two portable gauges containing radioactive material to prevent unauthorized access or removal.

Following significant corrective actions taken by the university, the NRC has decided not to issue a Notice of Violation or civil penalty. Under terms of the Confirmatory Order, the university has agreed to improve its handling of radioactive materials as identified by a third-party auditor.