

# NMSS Quarterly Newsletter



**U.S. Nuclear  
Regulatory  
Commission**

**Office of Nuclear  
Material Safety  
and Safeguards**

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<i>Contents</i>	<i>Page</i>
1. Eliminating the Site Decommissioning Plan and Establishing Management of Decommissioning Under a Comprehensive Decommissioning Program .....	1
2. Application to Operate an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation .....	2
3. Proposed Gas Centrifuge Uranium Enrichment Facilities .....	2
4. Spent Fuel Storage .....	2
5. Orphan Sources .....	3
6. Proposed Licensing Requirements for the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources .....	4
7. NMSS Reorganization .....	4
8. Senior Management Reassignments .....	5
9. Significant Enforcement Actions .....	5
10. Significant Events .....	7
11. Federal Register Notices .....	8
12. Generic Communications Issued Jan-May 2004 .....	9

## **ELIMINATING THE SITE DECOMMISSIONING PLAN AND ESTABLISHING MANAGEMENT OF DECOMMISSIONING UNDER A COMPREHENSIVE DECOMMISSIONING PROGRAM**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has decided to eliminate the Site Decommissioning Management Plan (SDMP) designation for sites and manage the SDMP sites as “complex sites,” under a comprehensive decommissioning program. Viewed in the context of this comprehensive decommissioning program, which includes routine decommissioning sites, formerly licensed sites, SDMP sites, non-routine/complex sites, fuel cycle sites, and test/research and power reactors, the

continued use of the SDMP does not provide the same benefits that it did when it was first developed. The cleanup of these sites is managed more effectively as part of this larger program, which facilitates the cleanup of routine and complex sites in a manner that is consistent with the goals of the SDMP Action Plan.

The staff developed the SDMP in response to the Commission’s direction to develop a comprehensive strategy for NRC to deal with a number of contaminated sites, so that closure on cleanup issues could be attained in a timely manner. In 1992, the staff developed the SDMP Action Plan to: 1) identify criteria that would be used to guide the cleanup of sites; 2) state NRC’s position on finality; 3) describe NRC’s expectation that cleanup would be completed within 3-4 years; 4) identify guidance on site characterization; and 5) describe the process for timely cleanup on a site-specific basis.

Since development of the SDMP Action Plan, the staff has addressed the issues identified in the Action Plan. For example, the criteria for site cleanup and NRC’s position on finality were codified in 10 CFR Part 20, Subpart E, “License Termination Rule”. NRC’s expectations regarding the completion of site decommissioning have been codified in 10 CFR 30.36, 40.42, 70.38, and 72.54. Issues associated with site characterization have been addressed in the Multi-Agency Radiation Survey and Site Investigation Manual (NUREG-1575, Rev. 1, August 2000) and in Volume 2: “Characterization, Survey, and Determination of Radiological Criteria,” of the Consolidated NMSS Decommissioning Guidance (NUREG-1757, Vol. 2, September 2003). The process for timely cleanup on a site-specific basis is addressed in NUREG-1757, Consolidated NMSS Decommissioning Guidance.

Since the original intent of the SDMP and the SDMP Action Plan (i.e., to achieve closure on cleanup issues so that cleanup could proceed in a

timely manner) has been achieved, the Commission has directed the staff to eliminate the SDMP designation and manage the SDMP sites as complex sites, under a comprehensive decommissioning program. Since the SDMP sites will be managed as aforementioned, the level of safety currently in place at SDMP sites will not be diminished. In addition, as sites are identified and managed as complex sites, and as more sites are evaluated pursuant to the comprehensive decommissioning program, common problematic technical issues should be identified more easily, and resolutions to these issues should be implemented in a more consistent manner.

(Contact: Daniel Gillen, 301-415-7295;  
e-mail: dmg2@nrc.gov)

### **APPLICATION TO OPERATE AN INDEPENDENT SPENT FUEL STORAGE INSTALLATION**

Adjudication continues on the application by Private Fuel Storage, L.L.C. (PFS) for a license to construct and operate an independent spent fuel storage installation on the Reservation of the Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians in Skull Valley, Utah. The proposed facility would be owned by a consortium of nuclear utilities and store up to 40,000 metric tons of spent nuclear fuel. The State of Utah and other groups have opposed the proposed facility. Currently, the issue concerning the consequences of an accidental F-16 aircraft crash at the proposed facility remains to be litigated with the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB).

NRC staff has completed its review of the crash consequence analyses provided by PFS, and submitted its evaluation to the ASLB in May 2004.

In addition, depositions of expert witnesses were held in May and June 2004, and subsequent hearings will be held in August and possibly September 2004, at NRC Headquarters, but closed to the general public because of the sensitive nature of the analyses. The ASLB stated that it appears likely that it will issue the decision on crash consequences no later than January 2005.

Finally, the Commission also has under consideration certain matters raised on appeal from prior ASLB decisions on various contentions. These involve PFS' petition for review of a January 2004 ASLB ruling on a financial assurance contention and the State of Utah's petition for review of the ASLB's decisions on three

environmental contentions. The staff will proceed with any appropriate licensing actions after all the ASLB decisions and appeal issues are resolved.

(Contact: Michael D. Waters, 301-415-3875;  
e-mail: mdw@nrc.gov)

### **PROPOSED GAS CENTRIFUGE URANIUM ENRICHMENT FACILITIES**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is reviewing the application Louisiana Energy Services Corporation (LES) submitted for a commercial gas centrifuge facility at Eunice, New Mexico, and is expecting an application for a second commercial gas centrifuge facility at Piketon, Ohio from United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC), in 2004.

NRC recently approved USEC's application for the Lead Cascade facility (a non-commercial demonstration and test gas centrifuge facility from which no enriched product will be removed, except for sampling).

Under the Atomic Energy Act, as amended, NRC must license a uranium enrichment plant under 10 CFR Part 40 (source material) and 10 CFR Part 70 (special nuclear material). Before an applicant can begin construction of a plant, NRC must issue a license for construction and operation. To issue a license, NRC must prepare an environmental impact statement for the project, as well as conduct a formal hearing before issuing a license.

(Contact: Timothy Johnson, 301-415-7299;  
e-mail: tcj@nrc.gov)

(Contact: Yawar Farez, 301-415-8113;  
e-mail: yhf@nrc.gov)

### **SPENT FUEL STORAGE**

The U.S. Energy Information Administration's last survey found that approximately 37,650 metric tons of spent nuclear fuel are stored at commercial nuclear power reactors. Projected spent fuel discharges could increase this amount to about 52,000 metric tons by the year 2005.

All the operating nuclear power reactors are storing spent fuel in U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licensed on-site spent fuel pools (SFPs). Most reactors were not designed to store the full amount of spent fuel generated during their

operational life. Utilities originally planned for spent fuel to remain in the SFP for only a few years after discharge and then be sent to a reprocessing facility. However, the U.S. Government declared a moratorium on reprocessing, in 1977. Although the ban was later lifted, reprocessing was eliminated as a feasible option. Consequently, utilities expanded the storage capacity of their SFPs by using high-density storage racks. This has been only a short-term solution and many utilities have reached, or will soon reach, their SFP storage capacity.

NRC authorizes storage of spent fuel at an independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) under two licensing options: site-specific licensing and general licensing. Currently, there are 30 operating ISFSIs in the United States. Under a site-specific license, an applicant submits a license application to NRC and NRC performs a technical review of the safety aspects of the proposed ISFSI. If the application is approved, NRC issues a site-specific license. A spent fuel storage license contains technical requirements and operating conditions for the ISFSI and specifies what the licensee is authorized to store at the site. The license expires 20 years from the date of issuance, with a renewal option.

A general license authorizes the nuclear power reactor licensee to store spent fuel in dry storage systems, approved by NRC at a site licensed to operate a nuclear power reactor. Thirteen dry storage designs have received Certificates of Compliance (CoC) or NRC approvals. A Certificate of Compliance expires 20 years from the date of issuance, with a re-approval option. General licensees are required to perform evaluations of their sites to demonstrate that the sites are adequate for storing spent fuel in dry casks. These evaluations must show that the CoC conditions and technical specifications can be met before use of the dry storage system.

With respect to public involvement, stakeholders can and do participate in the NRC licensing process. The Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and NRC regulations contain provisions for public hearings and other means, such as petitions and rulemaking requests, for the public to challenge NRC decisions and licensing actions.

Refer to NUREG-1571, "Information Handbook on Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installations" (December 1996) for a general overview.

Refer to Appendix I for a list of NRC-approved Dry Spent Fuel Storage Licensees.

NRC is responsible for approving transportable dry storage systems, also called dual-purpose casks. Additional information on storage of spent fuel at an ISFSI is available on the NRC's Web Site at <http://www.nrc.gov/materials/transportation.html>.

(Contact: John D. Monninger, 301-415-8540; e-mail: [jdm@nrc.gov](mailto:jdm@nrc.gov))

## **PROGRAMS FOR RECOVERY OF ORPHAN AND UNWANTED SOURCES**

Although orphan and unwanted sources have been of increasing concern to U.S. regulators recently, there is an existing network of programs that has been in place since the early 1990's. The three primary components of this network are: (1) the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and Department of Energy (DOE) Concerning the Management of Sealed Sources (NRC/DOE MOU), (2) DOE's Off-site Source Recovery Program (OSRP), and (3) the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) National Orphan Radioactive Material Disposition Program.

Emergency requests are handled as emergency source recoveries under the NRC/DOE MOU. The NRC/DOE MOU allows NRC and the Agreement States to request DOE assistance in recovering orphan sources or sources in imminent danger of becoming abandoned. Unwanted sources are handled under DOE's OSRP. The same group that does the work for the emergency recoveries, under the MOU, does the planned recoveries under the OSRP. The OSRP is DOE's routine program that addresses the lack of disposal options for Greater-Than-Class-C (GTCC) waste, and allows licensees and individuals to register sources for recovery. CRCPD provides information to assist States and NRC in source dispositioning (lists of waste brokers, individuals who want sources, and those that want to get rid of them). The three programs form the network we currently use to handle unwanted or orphan sources.

### **MOU**

The guidance documents that are used to prepare and consider a request for emergency source recovery under the NRC/DOE MOU are Inspection Manual Chapter 1303 and Policy & Guidance Directive (P&GD) 9-12 (see links below). It is the responsibility of the Region or the Agreement State to provide all the supporting information to NRC Headquarters (HQ). NRC HQ Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) helps the Region or

Agreement State assess whether the situation qualifies for recovery and also helps in developing the materials. NRC HQ NMSS makes the formal request to DOE.

The link to Manual Chapter 1303 is:  
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/insp-manual/manual-chapter/mc1303.pdf>

P&GD 9-12 can be found in ADAMS (ML031750731).

The NRC/DOE MOU is published in the Federal Register, Volume 65, Number 5, Pages 1184-1188.

The links are:

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2000\\_register&docid=00-344-filed.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2000_register&docid=00-344-filed.pdf)

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2000\\_register&docid=00-344-filed](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2000_register&docid=00-344-filed)

Additional information regarding requests under the MOU can be found in State and Tribal Programs All Agreement States Letter (STP-04-033) (ML 041270563). The link is: [http://www.hsr.d.ornl.gov/nrcindex/nrcindexsearch/nrcdocumentindex\\_vsearchForm.cfm](http://www.hsr.d.ornl.gov/nrcindex/nrcindexsearch/nrcdocumentindex_vsearchForm.cfm)

## **OSRP**

The link to the OSRP website is:  
<http://www.doeal.gov/osrp/>.

## **CRCPD**

The link to the CRCPD Orphan Source Program is:  
<http://www.crcpd.org/orphans.asp>

The links to two CRCPD documents describing its program are:

[http://www.crcpd.org/SpecialServices&Projects/Orphan\\_Rad\\_Mat\\_Pgm/Announcement.pdf](http://www.crcpd.org/SpecialServices&Projects/Orphan_Rad_Mat_Pgm/Announcement.pdf)

[http://www.crcpd.org/Transportation/Unwanted\\_Rad\\_Mat\\_Trifold\\_RevApril2002.pdf](http://www.crcpd.org/Transportation/Unwanted_Rad_Mat_Trifold_RevApril2002.pdf)

(Contact: Michele Burgess, 301-415-5868;  
e-mail: [mlb5@nrc.gov](mailto:mlb5@nrc.gov))

## **PROPOSED LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORT AND EXPORT OF RADIOACTIVE SOURCES**

On July 29, 2004, the Commission approved proposed changes to the agency's export and import regulations to require specific licenses for the export or import of high-risk radioactive materials. The

materials covered by the proposed changes are listed in a new Appendix P to 10 CFR Part 110 and include those covered by the International Atomic Energy Agency's Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources (<http://www.iaea.org/Publications/Standards/index.html>). Typical uses of radioactive materials covered by the rule include sources for irradiators, radiography cameras, and teletherapy equipment for treating cancer patients.

In addition to requiring that exporters and importers have a specific license for the export or import, the proposed regulation also requires advance notification to the NRC and the destination country of shipments of high-risk radioactive materials. For Category 1 quantities of high-risk radioactive materials, the destination country must also give its consent prior to the export being approved by the NRC.

The proposed rule (SECY-04-0110) can be found on the NRC's web page at the following link:  
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/commission/secys/2004/secy2004-0110/2004-0110scy.pdf> or <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/commission/secys/2004/secy2004-0110/2004-0110scy.html>

The implementation date proposed for the final rule is January 1, 2005. The staff is in the process of sending the proposed rule for publication in the Federal Register. The Federal Register notice will request public comments on the proposed rule and will include a 75 day public comment period.

(Contact, Marvin Peterson, 301-415-1771;  
e-mail: [mrp@nrc.gov](mailto:mrp@nrc.gov))

(Contact, Edward Baker, 301-415-2344;  
e-mail: [etb@nrc.gov](mailto:etb@nrc.gov))

## **NMSS REORGANIZATION**

This is to announce a reorganization, within the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), that reconfigures the Division of Waste Management into two distinct NMSS divisions: the Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection (DWMEP) and the Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety (DHLWRS). The reorganization was effective March 22, 2004. These changes are being implemented with the goal of improving our organizational effectiveness and focusing our program areas in high-level waste, decommissioning, environmental protection, and low-level waste.

The DWMEP will continue its strong efforts to plan, manage, and implement programs related to the decommissioning of sites, management of low-level waste activities, and performing environmental reviews. The division will have two directorates: the Decommissioning Directorate and the Environmental and Performance Assessment Directorate.

The DHLWRS will provide focus and management attention on major high-level waste programs and issues, and develop a comprehensive licensing program for the national high-level waste repository. The division will have two directorates: the Project Management and Engineering Directorate and the Site and Performance Assessment Directorate.

## **SENIOR MANAGEMENT REASSIGNMENTS**

The following management changes, and a description of the Agencies' mission, was announced by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Chairman, Niles J. Diaz, on 31 March, 2004. An excerpt of the announcement is provided below.

NRC is no longer a safety agency, but a safety, security, and preparedness agency. To address these challenges and opportunities, and to move succession planning into one of our priority areas, a series of senior management assignments are going to be effected. These changes are being done with the approval of, or in consultation with, the Commission. By the reassignment of senior managers listed below, the Commission is seeking fresh perspectives on key issues and cross-fertilization of management ideas. We are confident that these individuals' wealth of talent and experience will continue to protect the public's health and safety as we move forward and best position the Agency for future change.

The new assignments are:

Bill Travers became Region II Administrator and Luis Reyes took his place as Executive Director for Operations.

Sam Collins became Region I Administrator upon the retirement of Hub Miller in June, and Ellis Merschoff will take his place as Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

Jacqueline Silber is the Chief Information Officer, after receiving Office of Management and Budget approval. Carl Paperiello became Director of the Office of Research and Ashok Thadani became Director for International Research and Development Projects.

Marty Virgilio became Deputy Executive Director of Operations for Materials, Research and State Programs, and Jack Strosnider took his place as Director of the Office of Nuclear Material and Safeguards. John Craig is the Deputy Director of Research.

## **SIGNIFICANT ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Enforcement Program can be accessed via the NRC homepage [<http://www.nrc.gov/>] under "What We Do." Documents related to cases can be accessed at [<http://www.nrc.gov/>], "Electronic Reading Room," "Documents in ADAMS." ADAMS is the Agency-wide Document Access and Management System. Help in using ADAMS is available from the NRC Public Document Room, 301-415-4737 or 1-800-397-4209

### ***DECOMMISSIONING***

#### **Enviro-Test Laboratories LLC (EA-04-007)**

On February 13, 2004, a Notice of Violation was issued for a Severity Level III problem involving the failure to: (1) receive prior NRC approval of the decommissioning plan before beginning with decommissioning; (2) maintain security and control of licensable quantities of radioactive material (thorium-230); and (3) provide complete and accurate information to NRC.

### ***DISCRIMINATION***

#### **State of Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (EA-03-126)**

On March 15, 2004, a Notice of Violation was issued for a Severity Level II violation based on the licensee discriminating against one of its employees for raising safety concerns regarding radiation exposures to other employees. NRC also issued an immediately effective Confirmatory Order to confirm certain commitments, as set forth in the Order, involving the licensee's internal policies and procedures pertaining to assuring compliance with NRC employee protection requirements.

## **GAUGES**

### **CTI Consultants, Inc. (EA-03-226)**

On March 3, 2004, a Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalty in the amount of \$3000 was issued for a Severity Level III violation involving the failure to control and maintain constant surveillance of licensed material [407 MegaBecquerel (MBq) (11 millicuries (mCi) of cesium-137 and 1480 MBq (40 mCi) of americium-241 in a portable gauge] within a controlled or restricted area, resulting in the loss of the gauge during transport. Although the civil penalty would have been fully mitigated, based on the normal civil penalty assessment process, a base civil penalty was assessed in accordance with Section VII.A.1.g of the Enforcement Policy, to reflect the significance of maintaining control of licensed material.

### **Hastings Testing Engineers and Environmental (EA-03-175)**

On March 4, 2004, a Notice of Violation was issued for a Severity Level III violation involving the failures: (1) to secure from unauthorized removal or limit access to licensed material [296 MegaBecquerel (MBq) of cesium-137 (8 millicuries (mCi) and 1628 MBq (44 mCi) of americium-241 in each of three portable moisture/density gauges] in a controlled area; and (2) to control and maintain constant surveillance of this licensed material. Additionally, the licensee failed to lock the gauges, to prevent unauthorized or accidental removal of the sealed source from its shielded position, when not under the direct surveillance of an authorized user.

### **G. A. Covey Engineering (EA-04-002)**

On March 11, 2004, a Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalty in the amount of \$3000 was issued for a Severity Level III violation involving the failures: (1) to secure from unauthorized removal, or limit access, to licensed material [370 MegaBecquerel (MBq) (approximately 10 millicuries (mCi) of cesium-137 and 1850 MBq (50 mCi) of americium-241 in two portable moisture density gauges] in a controlled area; and (2) to control, and maintain constant surveillance of, this licensed material.

### **State of Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (EA-03-190)**

On March 15, 2004, a Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalties in the

amount of \$21,000 was issued for: (1) a willful Severity Level II problem (\$15,000) involving radiation exposures in excess of NRC's annual public exposure limit and failure to perform surveys appropriate to demonstrate compliance with NRC dose limits for individual members of the public; and (2) a willful Severity Level III violation (\$6000) involving the failure to provide copies of two exposure reports to six affected individuals.

### **Triad Engineering, Inc. (EA-04-014)**

On April 20, 2004, a Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalty in the amount of \$3000 was issued for a Severity Level III problem involving the willful failure: (1) to control and maintain constant surveillance of licensed material [1850 MegaBecquerel (approximately 50 millicuries) of americium-241 contained in a portable moisture density gauge] located in an unrestricted area; and (2) to lock the portable gauge or its container when not under the direct surveillance of an authorized user.

### **Anglin Civil Constructors, Ltd. (EA-04-031)**

On April 7, 2004, a Notice of Violation was issued for a Severity Level III violation involving the failures: (1) to secure from unauthorized removal, or limit access to, 296 MegaBecquerel (MBq) licensed material of cesium-137 (8 millicuries (mCi) and 1480 MBq (40 mCi) of americium-241 in a nuclear gauge in a controlled area; and (2) to control and maintain constant surveillance of this licensed material. Specifically, the licensee's staff left a moisture/density gauge unsecured and unattended in an unlocked office at a temporary job site.

## **MANUFACTURE AND DISTRIBUTION**

### **21st Century Technologies, Inc. (EA-03-187)**

On April 13, 2004, a Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalty in the amount of \$6000 was issued for a Severity Level III problem that resulted from the licensee's failure to ensure compliance with its NRC exempt distribution license. Specifically, the licensee did not obtain the required NRC authorization before distributing tritium-bearing gun sights and other devices not authorized by its license.

## **MEDICAL**

### **Guthrie Healthcare System (EA-04-025)**

On March 19, 2004, a Notice of Violation was issued for a Severity Level III violation. This

involved the failure to follow the requirements of the licensee's written Quality Management Plan. This required developing a second radiation dosimetry plan, based on actual distribution of prostate implant sources, relative to the prostate gland, as seen by localization radiographs, for 26 out of 30 patients treated with prostate implants, between January 2001 and January 2002.

#### **Department of Veterans Affairs (EA-04-019)**

On April 7, 2004, a Notice of Violation was issued for a Severity level III violation involving the failures: (1) to secure from unauthorized removal, or limit access to, licensed material [5.55 GigaBecquerel (GBq) (approximately 150 millicuries(mCi) of molybdenum-99 in a molybdenum-99/technetium-99m generator; 4.14 GBq (112 mCi) in four cesium-137 sealed sources; and 4.33 GBq (117 mCi) in two strontium-90 sealed sources] in a controlled area; and (2) to control and maintain constant surveillance of this licensed material.

#### **Department of the Navy - National Naval Medical Center (EA-04-075)**

On April 23, 2004, a Notice of Violation was issued for a Severity Level III violation involving the failures: (1) to secure from unauthorized removal, or limit access to, licensed material [999 MegaBecquerel (approximately 27 millicuries(mCi) total activity included in iridium-192 seeds] in a controlled area; and (2) to control and maintain constant surveillance of this licensed material.

### **INDUSTRIAL RADIOGRAPHY**

#### **Precision Testing and Inspection (EA-03-220)**

On February 25, 2004, a Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalty in the amount of \$3000 was issued for a Severity Level III willful problem involving the failures: (1) to post radiation areas during radiography operations; and (2) to provide accurate information to the NRC.

#### **High Mountain Inspection Service, Inc. (EA-03-229 and EA-04-062)**

On April 27, 2004, a Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalties in the amount of \$12,000 was issued for two Severity Level III problems involving the failures: (1) to maintain adequate security of a radiographic exposure device (assessed \$6000); and to give a

written exam before using a newly hired individual as a radiographer's assistant (assessed \$6000).

### **INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS**

#### **John Peart (IA-03-047)**

On February 25, 2004, a Notice of Violation was issued for a Severity Level III violation based on an individual's deliberate misconduct that caused Precision Testing and Inspection to be in violation of 10 CFR 34.53. As Senior Radiation Safety Officer, the individual deliberately failed to post the industrial radiography work area with danger signs in the work area.

#### **Julio Venegas (IA-03-046)**

On February 25, 2004, a Notice of Violation was issued for a Severity Level III violation based on an individual's deliberate activities while employed at Precision Testing and Inspection. As a Radiation Safety Officer (RSO), the individual deliberately provided inaccurate information to NRC, denying that he was the RSO for Precision Testing and Inspection.

(Contact: Sally Merchant, 301-415-2747; e-mail slm2@nrc.gov)

### **SIGNIFICANT EVENTS**

#### **Event 1: Overexposure to Radiation Workers at Cooperheat-MQS**

*Date and Place:* January 9, 2004, Monroe, Louisiana

*Nature and Probable Causes:* The licensee reported that an assistant radiographer received an exposure of 9.347 centiSievert (cSv)(rem) because of failure to properly survey the exposure device. The other radiographer received a dose of 4.974 cSv (rem). Both employees are not allowed to perform radiographic operations until after December 31, 2004. Both were suspended without pay. The radiographers were using an Amersham exposure device (Model 660-B, serial #B4293) and a 1.38 TeraBecquerel (37.3 curies) Ir-192 source (Model 424-9, serial #12680B) with an activity of 1376.4 GigaBecquerel (37.2 curies).

#### *Actions Taken to Prevent Recurrence*

Licensee: Both radiographers are required to perform 40 hours of radiation safety training before

resuming radiographic operations.

**Event 2:** Medical Event at the Department of Veterans Administration

*Date and Place:* January 29, 2004,  
Boston, Massachusetts

*Nature and Probable Causes:* The licensee reported that a patient was administered 19.8 MegaBecquerel (MBq)(535 microcurie( $\mu$ Ci) of Iodine-131(I-131), instead of the prescribed 0.19 MBq (5  $\mu$ Ci). The verbal order from the authorized user for a 0.19 MBq (5  $\mu$ Ci) dose was misunderstood and an 18.5 MBq (500  $\mu$ Ci) dose was ordered. After the event was discovered, the patient was given a thyroid blocking solution. Based on the patient's resultant thyroid uptake, the licensee computed a dose to the thyroid of approximately 86 centiSievert (rem). The root causes of this event included: (1) inadequate procedures (the licensee's procedures did not include the use of I-131 for this procedure because I-123 is normally used); (2) the failure of the nuclear medicine technologist to follow procedures for studies requiring a written directive; and (3) the failure to communicate the dose order clearly.

#### *Actions Taken to Prevent Recurrence*

Licensee: Corrective actions include procedure modification and a review of the education and competency training for nuclear medicine technologists.

(Contact: Angela Williamson, IMNS,  
301-415-5131; e-mail: arw@nrc.gov)

#### **SELECTED FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICES** (March 1, 2004 - April 30, 2004)

NOTE: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) contacts may be reached by mail at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001.

#### **FINAL RULES**

"List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: NAC-UMS Revision, Confirmation of Effective Date," 69 FR 16769, March 31, 2004.  
(Contact: Jayne M. McCausland, NMSS, 301-415-6219; e-mail: jmm2@nrc.gov)

"10 CFR Parts 170 and 171, Revision of Fee Schedules; Fee Recovery for Fiscal Year 2004," 69 FR 22664, April 26, 2004.

(Contact: Tammy Croote, OCFO, 301-415-6041,  
e-mail: tdc@nrc.gov)

#### **PROPOSED RULES**

"Public Records," 69 FR 22737, April 27, 2004.  
(Contact: Carol Ann Reed, OCIO, 301-415-7169; e-mail: FOIA@nrc.gov)

#### **OTHER NOTICES**

"Fourth Notice of a Proposed Amendment to the Agreement with the State of Utah; Request for Comment," 69 FR 10269, March 4, 2004.  
(Contact: Dennis M. Sollenberger, OSTP, 301-415-2819; e-mail: dms4@nrc.gov)

Draft Regulatory Guide DG-7004, "Establishing Quality Assurance Programs for Packaging Used in Transport of Radioactive Material," 69 FR 10489, March 5, 2004.  
(Contact J. Pearson, 301-415-1985; e-mail: jip@nrc.gov)

"Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material; Public Meeting," 69 FR 12088, March 15, 2004.  
(Contact: David Pstrak, NMSS, 301-415-8486; e-mail: dwp@nrc.gov)

Regulatory Guide 1.200, "An Approach for Determining the Technical Adequacy of Probabilistic Risk Assessment Results for Risk-Informed Activities," 69 FR 16627, March 30, 2004.  
(Contact: A. Singh, 301-415-0250; e-mail: axs@nrc.gov)

"Proposed Interim Enforcement Policy for Pilot Program on the Use of Alternative Dispute Resolution in the Enforcement Program; Request for Comments," 69 FR 21166, April 20, 2004.  
(Contact Nick Hilton, OE, 301-415-2741; e-mail: ndh@nrc.gov)

10 CFR Part 71, "Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material; Solicitation of Proposed Changes," 69 FR 21978 April 23, 2004  
(Contact: John Cook, NMSS, 301-415-8521; e-mail: jrc1@nrc.gov)

(General Contact: Michael Williamson, NMSS,  
301-415-6234; e-mail: mkw1@nrc.gov)

## **GENERIC COMMUNICATIONS ISSUED (January 22, 2004 - May 3, 2004)**

The following are summaries of U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) generic communications issued to Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) licensees. If one of these documents appears relevant to your needs and you have not received it, please call one of the technical contacts listed below. The Internet address for the NRC library of generic communications is: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/gen-comm/index.html> . Please note that this address is case-sensitive and must be entered exactly as shown. If you have any questions or comments about generic communications in general, please contact Ivelisse M. Cabrera, NMSS, 301-415-8152; e-mail: [imc1@nrc.gov](mailto:imc1@nrc.gov).

### ***Information Notices (INs)***

#### **Web Site Revisions for Medical Use Licensees**

NRC has revised the Medical Use Licensee Toolkit web site to add Information Notices (INs) and Regulatory Information Summaries (RIS) of interest to medical use licensees. NRC also added links to both the Medical Policy Statement and the NMSS Licensee Toolkit and removed licensing guidance for both the Cordis Checkmate intravascular brachytherapy (IVB) device and the Nucletron

seedSelectron permanent implant remote afterloader device. The IN and RIS pages, and the links to the Medical Policy Statement and the NMSS Licensee Toolkit were added as a convenience to medical use stakeholders. The Cordis IVB licensing guidance was removed because Cordis is no longer producing the device and has assured NRC there are no licensees with these devices. The seedSelectron licensing guidance was removed temporarily to put it into more user-friendly format and make other revisions.

(Technical Contact: Donna-Beth Howe, Ph.D., NMSS; 301-415-7848; e-mail: [dbh@nrc.gov](mailto:dbh@nrc.gov))

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Comments , and suggestions you may have for information not currently included, that might be helpful to licensees, should be sent to:

E. Kraus, Editor  
NMSS Licensee Newsletter  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
Two White Flint North, Mail Stop 8-A-23  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555-0001



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