



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, REGION III

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Web Site: <http://www.nrc.gov>

No. III-02-032

June 5, 2002

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NRC STAFF TO MEET WITH NORTHERN ENGRAVING ON POSSIBLE SAFETY VIOLATIONS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet June 6 in Lisle, Illinois, with officials from Northern Engraving, based in Sparta, Wisconsin, to discuss possible safety violations associated with the unauthorized transfer of generally licensed material and providing inaccurate or incomplete information to the NRC.

The meeting, called a Predecisional Enforcement Conference, will begin at 1 p.m. in the Third Floor Conference Room of the NRC's Region III office, 801 Warrenville Road, in Lisle. Visitors should register with the receptionist in Suite 255. The public is invited to observe the business portion of the meeting and will have an opportunity to ask questions of the NRC staff before the meeting is adjourned.

On March 13, 2002, Northern Engraving submitted documents to the NRC that stated that no generally licensed devices were in its possession.

On April 12, the State of Wisconsin reported to the NRC that a static eliminator, which was later determined to belong to the company, containing about 11.25 millicuries of americium-241, was found at Alter Scrap Processing in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. After the licensee transported the device to its facility in Sparta, Wisconsin, the NRC determined that it was damaged and that a second static eliminator, also belonging to Northern Engraving and also containing about 11.25 millicuries of americium-241, was missing.

The NRC conducted inspections at two licensee facilities in Sparta and Galesville, Wisconsin, at Alter Scrap Processing and at a transportation contractor facility in Melrose, Wisconsin, to review the circumstances surrounding the loss of control of the two static eliminators.

After the NRC site inspections, Northern Engraving informed the NRC that eight static eliminators had been found but ten static eliminators were missing.

NRC inspectors found two apparent violations of NRC regulatory requirements: the licensee's failure to transfer a generally licensed device to an authorized entity and the licensee's incomplete and inaccurate responses to the NRC's request to identify generally licensed devices in its possession.

The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that a determination has been made that a violation has occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. The purpose is to discuss apparent violations, their causes and safety significance, to provide the company with an opportunity to provide additional information on the situation, and to enable the company to outline its proposed corrective action.

No decision on the apparent violation or any contemplated enforcement action, such as a fine, will be made at the conference. Those will be made by NRC officials at a later time.

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