



# NRC NEWS

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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## **NRC PROPOSES \$6,500 FINE FOR UNIVERSAL TESTING, LLC**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has proposed a fine of \$6,500 against Universal Testing, LLC, of Clearfield, Utah, for violating NRC requirements.

In a Feb. 23 letter to the company, Bruce S. Mallett, Administrator of the NRC's Region IV office in Arlington, Texas, said that as a result of an NRC inspection, the agency determined that the company violated NRC requirements for the possession and use of radioactive materials.

The violations involved failure to control and maintain constant surveillance of radioactive material stemming from an incident that occurred on Feb. 18 and 19, 2006, in which a radiographer left an industrial radiography device in the open bed of a pickup truck after stopping to drink at a bar in Casper, Wyo.

The device was left unattended and unsecured in the open bed of a pickup truck for about 1 ½ hours when the radiographer was inside the bar. Later that evening, the radiographer was involved in a traffic accident, resulting in his arrest and impoundment of the truck.

The driver was released the next day and recovered the truck and the device. But Mallett said, the violation was significant because the material was vulnerable to unauthorized access or removal and the radiographer engaged in deliberate misconduct because he knew he should have maintained better control over the device.

NRC discussed the violations, their significance, the root cause and the company's corrective actions during an enforcement conference with the company on Feb. 8. The company has taken steps to prevent recurrence, and disciplined the radiographer. The NRC issued a Notice of Violation to the radiographer.

The company has 30 days to either pay the proposed fine or challenge it and 10 days in which to request alternate dispute resolution. The NRC's letter, its enclosures, and the company's response will be made available to interested members of the public through the agency's public electronic reading room at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. Help in accessing these documents is available from the NRC Public Document Room at 1-800-397-4209.

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