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NRC Issues \$1,000 Fine and Confirmatory Order to a Cardiology Practice

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has issued a \$1,000 civil penalty and confirmatory order to the Bradley D. Bastow cardiology practice in South Haven, Mich., for violations in the safe use of radioactive material.

The violations were identified during an NRC special inspection and an investigation looking into the handling of radioactive material used for diagnostic medical tests. The NRC staff concluded that the company failed to adhere to certain NRC safety requirements which include conducting appropriate contamination surveys; making sure survey instruments are properly calibrated; conducting regular inventories of sealed radioactive sources; keeping accurate records; and keeping accurate and complete records.

“Even though these violations did not result in harm to medical staff or patients, our action underscores the expectation that NRC license holders will adhere to NRC requirements to make sure nuclear material is used safely,” said NRC Region III Administrator Cynthia D. Pederson.

The confirmatory order and the \$1,000 fine were issued as a result of the Alternative Dispute Resolution process, which uses a mediator to assist the NRC and a licensee to reach an agreement when there are differences regarding an enforcement action. The company agreed to abide by the conditions of the order requiring a number of actions to ensure the NRC’s concerns will be addressed. Some of the commitments include: making sure all equipment listed on the NRC license is calibrated and operable; having the company’s radiation safety officer complete medical radiation safety officer refresher training; increasing the frequency of radiation safety program reviews; making sure everyone involved in NRC-regulated activities at the office understands NRC safety requirements and feels free to raise safety concerns; and making sure that the documentation of NRC-regulated activities, including those required by the confirmatory order, is complete, accurate and clear.

The medical practice agreed to address these issues according to the timelines established in the order and to notify the NRC in writing upon completion of specific actions.

The NRC’s [confirmatory order](#), [inspection report](#) and [choice letter](#) summarizing the results of the NRC’s investigation are available on the [NRC's website](#).