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NRC Proposes \$3,750 Fine for Connecticut Hospital Violations

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is [proposing](#) a \$3,750 civil penalty for a hospital in Norwich, Connecticut, related to violations involving the improper disposal of NRC-licensed nuclear material.

During an inspection conducted Oct. 22, 2020, through Jan. 26, 2021, the NRC identified four apparent violations at the William W. Backus Hospital involving the handling of seven radioactive sources used at the facility for calibration purposes. The violations, which are being treated collectively as a single Severity Level III violation, include the improper disposal of the sources; the incorrect labeling of the sources; a failure to leak-test and inventory the sources; and a failure to properly implement written waste disposal procedures for the material.

The improper transfer of the sources occurred on May 5, 2020, when the bucket in which they had been stored was shipped to a lead-processing facility in Ohio. Because the sources were at the bottom of the container, under the lead items, they went undetected prior to shipment.

During the time the sources were en route to and at the Ohio facility, they remained shielded and controlled. The hospital subsequently arranged for their proper disposal.

The hospital has put in place corrective actions to address the violations, which included performing an inventory of sealed radioactive sources at the hospital and properly disposing of unused sources to avoid their accumulation, as well as performing checks on their storage, security and plans for disposal.