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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NRC STAFF TO MEET WITH PENNSYLVANIA TESTING LABORATORIES  
TO DISCUSS APPARENT VIOLATIONS OF REQUIREMENTS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with officials of Pennsylvania Testing Laboratories on Wednesday, April 16, to discuss six apparent violations of NRC requirements. This predecisional enforcement conference will be held in the NRC's Regional Office in King of Prussia, PA. It begins at 10:00 and is open to the public for observation.

Pennsylvania Testing Laboratories, of West Pittston, Pa., holds a license to possess portable moisture density gauges. In January of this year, the NRC suspended the company's license to use NRC-licensed material for failing to pay its 1996 annual fee.

The alleged violations were found by an NRC inspector during a special inspection on March 11. The inspector found that the company had stored licensed material at unauthorized locations and that it had failed to: (1) provide complete and accurate information to the NRC; (2) lock the portable gauge in its transportation case when not in use in the field; (3) test the gauges for leaks at the required frequency; (4) exchange whole-body radiation measuring film badges at the required monthly frequency; and (5) maintain copies of records required by the company's license and NRC regulations.

The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that the NRC has determined that a violation has occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. Rather, the purpose is to discuss apparent violations, their causes and safety significance; to provide the licensee an opportunity to point out any errors that may have been made in the NRC inspection report; and to enable the licensee to outline its proposed corrective actions. No decision on the apparent violations will be made at this conference. Those decisions will be made by senior NRC officials at a later time.

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