



# NRC NEWS

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## **NRC PROPOSES \$3,250 FINE FOR ENGLEWOOD, N.J., HOSPITAL**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is proposing a \$3,250 civil penalty for Englewood Hospital and Medical Center, in Englewood (Bergen County), N.J., for a violation of agency requirements related to the facility's radiation oncology program.

The violation was identified during an NRC inspection conducted on April 13 and Sept. 1, 2005, as well as during an investigation by the agency's Office of Investigations completed on April 21, 2006. Specifically, the hospital, in a request submitted to the NRC on April 6, 2005, sought permission to amend its license to add an individual as an authorized medical physicist for its radiation oncology program. A statement included in the submittal provided information regarding the training and experience of the individual. However, that statement was determined to contain inaccurate information. Notably, the statement listed clinical experience at the hospital from December 2004 to May 2005 when, in fact, the medical physicist did not begin to work at the facility until February 2005.

Based on the investigation by the Office of Investigations, the NRC has concluded that the actions of the hospital's authorized medical physicist contractor, who provided the hospital with the information, were deliberate in that the contractor knew the statement was inaccurate at the time it was submitted to the hospital. Englewood Hospital then submitted this information to the NRC in a request to amend its NRC license.

"Since you are responsible not only for the acts of your employees but also any contractors and their employees, your submittal of the inaccurate information to the NRC is considered a deliberate violation within the context of the NRC Enforcement Policy," NRC Region I Administrator Samuel J. Collins wrote in an April 30<sup>th</sup> letter to Englewood Hospital regarding the enforcement action.

In addition to the violation for which the fine is being proposed, the NRC also identified five other violations which are being cited in the notice of violation. They include failures to: secure from unauthorized removal, or limit access to, a high-dose remote afterloader containing iridium-192; appoint a radiation safety officer from Feb. 6, 2005 to April 6, 2005; conduct adequate annual reviews of the hospital's radiation protection program content and implementation; notify the NRC no later than 30 days from the date the hospital permitted an individual to work as an authorized medical physicist; and secure the keys for the high-dose remote afterloader when it was not in use or unattended.

Englewood Hospital representatives discussed the violations with NRC during a predecisional enforcement conference on Feb. 27, 2007. Hospital officials stated that several corrective actions had been taken to address the issues, including new security measures and improved communication with the NRC.

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