



# NRC NEWS

**U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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No. 07-138

October 22, 2007

## **NRC BEGINS SPECIAL INSPECTION AT THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY'S RESEARCH REACTOR**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has begun a special inspection at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's research reactor facility in Cambridge, Mass., after the facility reported an unexpectedly high dosimeter reading for one of its operators.

Although the dosimeter reading was below the NRC occupational exposure limit of 5 rem, the actual reading of about 4 rem was substantially higher than expected. Typically, readings of less than 0.5 rem would be expected for the type of work being performed. Dosimeters are badges worn by nuclear workers to measure radiation exposure when working near radioactive material. MIT reported the reading to the NRC on Oct. 17.

The NRC special inspection team will attempt to determine if the dosimeter reading was accurate. The team will develop a sequence of events and activities the operator performed to assess whether the operator's actions may have resulted in the high dosimeter reading. It will also review licensee records and the implementation of its radiation protection program, and look for other factors that may have caused the abnormal reading.

The special inspection is expected to be completed in two to three weeks. An inspection report will be issued and made public approximately 30 days following completion of the inspection.

MIT's research reactor was licensed to operate in 1958 by the NRC's predecessor, the Atomic Energy Commission.

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