



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC PROPOSES \$6,500 FINE FOR BUFFALO, N.Y., FIRM FOR FAILURE TO ADHERE TO REQUIREMENTS FOR USE OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff is proposing a \$6,500 civil penalty for Quality Inspection Services, Inc., (QISI) of Buffalo, N.Y., for a violation of NRC requirements involving the use of an industrial radiography facility it owns in Manchester, Conn.

Specifically, the NRC found there was a willful failure on the part of a QISI site Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) to maintain utilization logs for each sealed radioactive source at the site. NRC reviews determined that the RSO performed radiographic operations at the Manchester site on several occasions between Nov. 15, 2006, and March 2, 2007, without keeping such logs. Among other things, these logs capture whether safety procedures were followed.

During industrial radiography operations, metal parts and welds can be inspected for flaws. A sealed radioactive source beams radiation at the object to be checked. Special photographic, or radiographic, film on the opposite side of the source is exposed when it is struck by the radiation passing through. Structural problems can be detected by studying the film.

“The NRC concluded that the RSO’s actions were willful, in careless disregard of NRC requirements,” NRC Region I Samuel J. Collins wrote to QISI regarding the enforcement action. “Willful violations are of particular concern to the NRC, because its regulatory program is based on licensees and their employees acting with integrity.”

On March 13 and 14, 2007, the NRC conducted an inspection at the Manchester site to evaluate final preparation of a permanent radiographic facility there. The inspection was performed in anticipation of a request from the company for NRC approval of the facility. During the inspection, the NRC learned that radiographic exposures were conducted at the site prior to NRC approval and were not carried out in accordance with agency regulations.

An investigation by the NRC Office of Investigations was subsequently conducted to determine whether unauthorized radiography operations had been performed at the site and

whether QISI personnel had provided incomplete and inaccurate information to the NRC on March 13, 2007. Based on information gathered during the investigation and the earlier inspection, the NRC identified the violation for which the fine is being proposed. The violation was discussed with QISI during a predecisional enforcement conference in the NRC Region I Office on Aug. 27, 2008. At that meeting, QISI discussed, among other things, corrective actions it had taken in response to the apparent violations.

QISI has 30 days to provide the NRC with a written response to the violation.

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