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NRC Proposes \$7,000 Civil Penalty Against Puerto Rico Firm for Violation of Order

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$7,000 fine against a Santurce, Puerto Rico, company for a violation involving its failure to comply with an NRC order.

In an order issued Aug. 7, 2012, the NRC notified Centro de Medicina (CDM) Nuclear that it had failed to pay its annual licensing fee to the agency and it had 20 days to do so. When the firm did not comply, the NRC revoked CDM's license on Aug. 28, 2012, and required CDM to take several steps, including arranging for the disposal or transfer of any licensed nuclear materials possessed under its license.

An NRC inspector conducted a site visit on Jan. 17, 2013, and confirmed that the company's licensed radioactive sources were properly accounted for and secured. To date, however, CDM has not complied with the order or responded to communications from the NRC.

An NRC letter to the company regarding this enforcement action states, "In assessing the significance of this violation, the NRC considered that CDM has failed to comply with the NRC order for more than a year and has taken no action to initiate decommissioning of its site or arrange for the transfer or disposal of its licensed radioactive materials. Additionally, CDM's continued failure to provide the required information to, and communicate with, the NRC has impeded the NRC from carrying out its regulatory mission of protecting public health and safety and the environment, and has resulted in additional unplanned site visits to CDM's facility to verify the security of CDM's licensed material."

Should the firm fail to adhere to the order within 60 days, the NRC will impose daily civil penalties of \$100 per day. Because the NRC's primary concern is ensuring that CDM meets its obligation to properly dispose of the licensed nuclear material in its possession, if the company transfers or disposes of the material within 60 days, the NRC will forgo all civil penalties and terminate the company's license.