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NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$2,500 FINE AGAINST SYNCOR INTERNATIONAL  
CORPORATION FOR DELIBERATE MISUSE OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$2,500 fine against Syncor International Corporation, of Chatsworth, California, for a violation of its requirements governing use of radioactive materials at its nuclear pharmacy in Pittsburgh, PA.

The violation was found during an NRC inspection conducted after an August 10, 1995 incident in which an individual's lock and locker in an unrestricted area of the facility were deliberately contaminated with technetium-99m. The individual, who did not suffer any adverse health consequences as a result of the incident, detected the contamination when surveying himself.

In a letter to the licensee, Region I Administrator Thomas T. Martin said that the NRC has "... concluded that the violation most likely was deliberate because of the amount of contamination that was concentrated on the lock and the fact that the only other contamination at the facility correlated with the activities of the contaminated individual after his visit to the locker."

Syncor was cited by the NRC staff in November 1994 for violating regulations after a worker deliberately sprayed radioactive material on butterflies at a Syncor facility in Kansas City, Missouri. Although that individual was terminated, the company did not take "corporate-wide" action at that time to inform managers and employees at its other facilities about the event and of the significance of deliberate misuse of radioactive material, Mr. Martin said in his letter.

Syncor has 30 days either to pay the proposed fine or to request in writing that part or all of it be withdrawn. The company also has 30 days to admit or deny the alleged violations, and to describe the actions it has taken or plans to take to prevent recurrence.

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