

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NRC, MERCK AND COMPANY INC. TO DISCUSS
APPARENT VIOLATIONS AT NEW JERSEY RESEARCH FACILITIES

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold a predecisional enforcement conference with Merck and Company Inc. on Monday, June 23, to discuss two apparent violations of agency requirements regarding the use of radioactive material at the pharmaceutical manufacturer's New Jersey research facilities. The apparent violations are a failure to make required radiation surveys and an unauthorized disposal of radioactive material.

Scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. in the public meeting room of NRC's Region 1 Office in King of Prussia, Pa., the meeting will be open to the public for observation only.

NRC inspectors identified the apparent violations during inspections conducted from April 8 to 11 and on April 24 at Merck and Company laboratories in Rahway, Somerville and Three Bridges, N.J.

The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that the NRC has determined a violation has occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. Rather, the purpose is to discuss apparent violations, their causes and safety significance; to provide the licensee with an opportunity to point out any errors that may have been made in the NRC inspection report; and to enable the licensee to outline its proposed corrective actions.

No decision on the apparent violations will be made at this conference. That decision will be made by NRC officials at a later time.

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