



# NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
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## **NRC PROPOSES \$6,000 FINE FOR HIGH MOUNTAIN INSPECTION SERVICES, INC.**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a fine of \$6,000 against High Mountain Inspection Services, Inc., of Mills, Wyoming, for failure to properly manage and limit radiation doses to its employees.

Following an inspection completed on October 2, 2001, and an enforcement conference held on February 27, the NRC determined that two High Mountain radiographers, during the year 2000, received annual occupational doses in excess of NRC limits of five rem per year. These overexposures occurred as a result of the failure of the company's managers to follow NRC requirements concerning the administration of radiation safety programs. Ten violations of NRC regulations were identified overall. The overexposures were not significantly above the five-rem limit, and no health effects would be expected for the two workers.

Of the ten violations, four were collectively categorized as a Severity Level III problem, which carries a civil penalty of \$6,000. The NRC uses a four-level scale to rate the seriousness of violations, with Severity Level I being the most serious. In a letter to High Mountain president Bill R. Fraser, NRC's Regional Administrator Ellis W. Merschoff said he is imposing the fine ". . . to emphasize the importance of assuring on an ongoing basis that you are operating your radiation safety program in accordance with NRC requirements . . ."

High Mountain is required to respond to the letter and Notice of Violation with actions the company is taking to assure future compliance with regulatory and license requirements. The company has 30 days to pay the fine or protest it. If the protest is denied, the company may request a hearing by the NRC.

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