



NRC NEWS

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NRC BOARD ISSUES ORDER APPROVING SETTLEMENT OF ENFORCEMENT PROCEEDING INVOLVING A THOROFARE, N.J., COMPANY

A Thorofare, N.J., firm, Eastern Testing and Inspection Inc. (ETI), has agreed to pay a \$4,500 civil penalty, its president will not participate in any work under the jurisdiction of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for six months and a former vice president will not participate in such work for a year.

The NRC in February proposed more severe penalties – a fine of \$13,000 and one year suspensions for each individual. The company appealed the NRC's proposed notice of violation, penalties and orders, requiring the creation of an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel. The Board accepted a settlement negotiated by the NRC staff and the company in which the two parties agreed to disagree about the violations the NRC said occurred, but agreed to a settlement that meets NRC's conditions that the firm take action to ensure the violations do not occur again.

The company is required to develop and implement an annual training program that explains specific requirements to employees using licensed materials, and to contract with a consultant to evaluate the effectiveness of the firm's security and radiation safety program. In addition, the firm agreed it will not possess licensed nuclear materials in New Jersey before Nov. 10, 2009. Company president, Himat Soni, agreed not to work with NRC licensed material for six months. The vice president, Dhiraj Soni, has since left the firm and will not work with NRC licensed material for a year.

Last February the NRC found ETI deliberately violated agency regulations. Specifically, ETI failed to implement a security requirement that required coordination with local law enforcement agencies, and failed to provide complete and accurate information to the NRC. The agency concluded that the violations were willful. The problems associated with the violations did not involve handling of nuclear materials.

The company has 30 days to pay the reduced penalty.

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