



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC TO HOLD ENFORCEMENT CONFERENCE DEC. 17 WITH DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will hold a predecisional enforcement conference Dec. 17 in Rockville, Md., with officials from the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Philadelphia (VA Philadelphia) and the Department of Veterans Affairs to discuss apparent violations of NRC requirements associated with a large number of medical errors at VA Philadelphia.

Medical errors at VA Philadelphia involved the incorrect placement of iodine-125 seeds to treat prostate cancer. The NRC conducted special inspections to determine how 97 out of 116 procedures that took place between 2002 and 2008 could have been executed incorrectly. NRC inspectors identified eight apparent violations. They are associated with the lack of procedures that would help ensure that each prostate cancer treatment adheres to the prescription written by the physician; absence of verification tools to ensure that the treatment was delivered as prescribed; failure to instruct personnel in identification and reporting requirements for medical events; failure to record the dose received by a patient on the doctors' prescription form; failure to make sure all written reports are complete and accurate; and failure to notify the NRC no later than the next calendar day after discovery of a medical event.

The meeting, which will be open to public observation, will be at 1 PM (EST), in the Commissioners' Conference Room, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Md. This conference is being held to obtain information to assist the NRC in making an enforcement decision. No final decisions will be made during this conference.

Webcast of this meeting can be viewed at <http://video.nrc.gov/live/> at 1:00 p.m. (EST). The "View Live Meeting Webcast" link on this page will become active one hour prior to the start of the meeting.

After the predecisional enforcement conference, the NRC will review the information received during the conference and the conclusions of the special inspection to determine what type of action will be taken against the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Special inspection reports and other documents associated with the Veterans Affairs issue will be available through the NRC RIII Office of Public Affairs and at the NRC web site: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html>.

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