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NRC to Conduct Pre-Decisional Enforcement Conference with a Connecticut Medical Facility

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with representatives of a Bridgeport, Connecticut, hospital on Sept. 15, to discuss apparent violations associated with the temporary loss of a radioactive source used for the calibration of nuclear medicine equipment.

The hybrid meeting will take place from 1-3 p.m., Eastern time, at the NRC's Region I office in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, located at 475 Allendale Road. NRC staff and representatives of St. Vincent's Medical Center will discuss apparent violations identified during an NRC inspection performed at the facility on March 2 and 3, 2022, as well as during continued reviews through July 12, 2022.

The NRC received a report last year that a sealed source containing cesium-137 from the hospital was found at a biohazardous waste vendor's facility in Woonsocket, Rhode Island, after it set off radiation monitors. The source was apparently inadvertently disposed of as biohazardous waste. The vendor notified St. Vincent's on Oct. 27, 2021, that it had the source and placed it into storage. It was subsequently returned to the hospital.

During the enforcement conference, representatives of St. Vincent's will have an opportunity to elaborate on what occurred and provide additional information regarding the issue, as well as other program concerns identified during the inspection, prior to the agency making its final enforcement decision. Medical center officials will also discuss corrective actions taken and planned to address the issue and prevent a recurrence.

Interested members of the public who are not attending in person will be able to participate in the meeting virtually using the Microsoft Teams platform via this link. It is also possible to take part in the meeting by phone by calling 301-576-2978, conference ID 595542806#.