



CORRECTION TO THE JANUARY 8, 1997, NEWS YOU CAN USE

The January 8, 1997 NEWS YOU CAN USE item regarding enforcement actions at Brookhaven National Laboratory was in error.

Brookhaven National Laboratory did not receive a Notice of Violation. The Notice was issued to one of the Laboratory's subcontractors. The Department chose not to issue a NOV in recognition that the Laboratory took positive actions regarding these matters, but did send an Enforcement Warning letter requesting a corrective action plan to improve Brookhaven's oversight of subcontractor safety performance.

Media Contact: Anne Elliott, 202/586-5806

N-97-002

NEWS YOU CAN USE—January 8, 1997

DOE CITES BROOKHAVEN, LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABS FOR SAFETY VIOLATIONS

The Department of Energy has issued Notices of Violation to two of its laboratories for violations of nuclear safety rules under the Price-Anderson Amendments Act of 1988. At the Brookhaven National Laboratory a general subcontractor violated a range of worker radiation protection requirements. The violations include failure to: post radiological warning signs, use protective clothing and equipment, maintain radiation exposures as low as reasonably achievable and complete radiological training for workers. The violations at Brookhaven were serious enough to warrant monetary fines, but current law exempts all not-for-profit laboratories and their contractors, whether or not for profit, from civil penalties.

At Los Alamos National Laboratory, in one incident, alarms were muffled on three tritium monitors in the Tritium Science and Fabrication Facility (TSFF). These monitors are safety features that alert workers to a tritium release. Once the DOE Area Office identified the issue to lab management and made repeated attempts to resolve the issue, it still took 77 days for the mufflers to be removed. Should there have been an accidental release of tritium during this period, workers in the facility would have been at greater safety risk. In a second incident, a power supply line was accidentally cut while a sump was being installed. This resulted in the loss of power to certain TSFF safety features.

Media Contact: Anne Elliott, 202/586-5806

EA-96-07
96-06

DOE News Releases (December 19, 1996 - January 8, 1997)

- Alternatives to Traditional Fuels, Vehicles Continue to Make Inroads in U.S. Markets
EIA Press Contact: Thomas Welch, 202/586-1178
- DOE Issues Notices Requesting Comments on a Draft Request for Proposal for Acquisition of Waste Acceptance and Transportation Services for Commercial Spent Nuclear Fuel
News Media Contacts: Joanne Johnson, Harry Phillips, 202/586-5806
- Department of Energy to Submit Legislation for External Regulation of Nuclear Safety
News Media Contact: Jayne Brady, 202/586-5806
- Design Final for Weapons Complex Without Underground Nuclear Testing
News Media Contacts: Chris Kielich, Matthew Donoghue, 202/586-5806

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