



NRC NEWS

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NRC TO DISCUSS APPARENT VIOLATIONS AT AMERICAN RADIOLABELED CHEMICALS

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled a meeting for Tuesday, May 20, to discuss five apparent violations of NRC regulations associated with radiation safety practices at American Radiolabeled Chemicals, Inc. (ARC), a manufacturer and distributor of radiolabeled chemicals, based in St. Louis, Missouri.

The meeting, called a predecisional enforcement conference, is scheduled to begin at 1:00 p.m. in the NRC Region III Office, at 2443 Warrenville Road, in Lisle, Ill. It will be open to the public, and those in attendance will have an opportunity to ask questions of NRC staff before the end of the meeting. Visitors need to check in on the 2nd floor of the building prior to the meeting.

The NRC conducted a two-part inspection at ARC, in January and March 2008. During the inspection in January, NRC inspectors identified contamination on workers' clothing and in the lunchroom -- areas where radiological contamination is not expected to be found.

In February 2008, the NRC issued a Confirmatory Action Letter to the company. The letter outlined commitments made by the company to address issues identified by the NRC and to improve its radiation safety practices.

The NRC conducted a follow-up inspection in March to complete its January reviews and to assess the company's actions in response to the Confirmatory Action Letter.

NRC inspectors identified five apparent violations of NRC regulations: the company's failure to comply with license commitments in the area of management oversight of the Radiation Protection Program; failure to comply with license commitments in the area of radiological surveys; failure to secure radiological material from unauthorized removal or limit access; discharging radiological material into the sanitary sewer in excess of NRC limits; and failure to perform and document investigations of contamination.

The purpose of the May 20 conference is to discuss the apparent violations and provide the company an opportunity to respond and to provide details of its corrective actions and other additional information to enable the NRC to determine what, if any, enforcement action is warranted.

No enforcement decision will be made by the NRC staff at the conference. Agency managers will make a decision following a review of information from the enforcement conference and final evaluation of the apparent violations.

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