



# NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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## NRC PROPOSES \$8,500 FINE FOR LUZENAC AMERICA, INC.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has proposed an \$8,500 fine against Luzenac America, Inc., of Three Forks, Mont., for inadvertently transferring a gauge containing radioactive material to a recycling center that was not authorized to receive it.

The company has an NRC license authorizing it to use gauges containing radioactive material in mining operations.

Employees of a recycling center in Bozeman, Mont. notified the NRC after discovering the gauge in their scrap yard last December, and secured the device. No members of the public received radiation doses in excess of NRC limits.

“Nevertheless, the NRC considers loss of control of licensed radioactive material a significant regulatory and security concern because of the potential for unauthorized possession, use, or exposure to unnecessary radiation to members of the public.” NRC Region IV Administrator Elmo E. Collins told the company in a letter announcing the proposed fine.

The company took prompt and comprehensive corrective actions to address the cause of the violation following its investigation. This included purchase of hand-held scanners for sampling scrap metal for radioactive materials prior to recycling and special training for employees.

The company has 30 days to pay the proposed fine or challenge it.

The NRC’s letter, its enclosures and the licensee’s response will be made available to the public through the agency’s electronic reading room at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/html>. Help in finding these documents is available from the NRC Public Document Room at 1-800-397-4209.

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