



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC TO HOLD PREDECISIONAL ENFORCEMENT CONFERENCE WITH FORSGREN ASSOCIATES

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold a predecisional enforcement conference with representatives of Forsgren Associates, Inc. on August 3 to discuss apparent violations of NRC regulations regarding radiation safety and the securing of portable nuclear gauges at the company's facility in Rexburg, Idaho.

The conference will begin at 2 p.m. at the NRC's Region IV office, 612 East Lamar Blvd., Suite 400, Arlington, Texas. During the conference, the company will have an opportunity to address the four apparent violations that occurred at their facility. The public is invited to observe the meeting. NRC officials will be available before the conclusion of the meeting to answer questions.

The company holds an NRC license authorizing it to possess and use radioactive material in six portable gauges used for road construction. During an inspection of the facility on April 15, NRC inspectors examined procedures and records, observed activities, and conducted interviews with personnel.

During the inspection, an NRC inspector observed that the licensee failed to properly secure the gauges while in storage. They also failed to periodically review the radiation protection program and conduct an inventory of the gauges every six months. In addition, the licensee was not conducting annual tests of the sealed sources for leakage or contamination.

The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that a final determination has been made that violations have occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. The purpose is to discuss the apparent violations, causes and safety significance, to provide the licensee with an opportunity to point out any errors, if any, in the NRC inspection report and to enable the company to outline its corrective actions.

No decision on the apparent violations or any contemplated enforcement action, such as a civil penalty, will be made at the conference. Those decisions will be made by NRC officials at a later time.

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