



# NRC NEWS

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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## **NRC ISSUES CONFIRMATORY ORDER TO SABIA, INC. FOLLOWING ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued a confirmatory order to Sabia, Inc., of San Diego, Calif., requiring additional training for employees and comprehensive audits of its radiation safety program by an outside party. The order is effective immediately.

The company holds NRC licenses authorizing it to manufacture and distribute fixed gauges containing sealed radioactive sources that are used in the coal mining process.

An NRC inspection conducted from January to July 2004 identified two apparent violations of NRC requirements; failing to assign trained personnel designated in its license to oversee the use of gauges the company installed at coal mines; and transferring gauges containing radioactive material to users who were not authorized to receive them.

In response to a July 14 NRC inspection report, the company requested the use of NRC's Alternative Dispute Resolution process to resolve differences it had with NRC's inspection findings.

As a result of that process, the company acknowledged that it had committed violations of NRC requirements, but does not agree that willfulness was involved. In order to prevent recurrence, however, Sabia agreed to improve its employee training program for ensuring compliance with NRC regulations and hire an outside contractor to perform a comprehensive audit of its radiation safety program before the end of 2006.

Any other person adversely affected by the order has 20 days to request a hearing.

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