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NRC TO DISCUSS PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF SPECIAL INSPECTION AT SOUTH BEND HOSPITAL

Nuclear Regulatory Commission experts will meet with officials of St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center in South Bend, Ind., Thursday, April 21 to discuss an NRC team's review of the misapplication of nuclear medicine to five cancer patients in 2004.

The meeting, which will be open to public observation, will begin at 2 p.m. at Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center, at the Education Center of the South Bend Campus, 801 East LaSalle Street, South Bend.

The hospital reported to the NRC in March 2005 that several patients had received unintended radiation exposures to their legs during treatment for cervical cancer. The unintended exposures occurred when a small sealed capsule containing a radiation source shifted during treatment, resulting in the radiation dose to the skin of the patient's leg instead of the intended treatment area.

The medical center has notified the patients and their physicians of the treatment problems.

The NRC dispatched an Augmented Inspection Team to look into the event and review the hospital's plans to address the problems that caused it. An NRC medical consultant has been retained to evaluate the medical aspects of the unintended radiation exposures.

"This inspection reviewed the circumstances surrounding these medical events and the actions the medical center has taken to make sure this does not happen again," said Geoffrey Grant, NRC Deputy Regional Administrator.

The written report of the inspection will be available in May in the NRC's online document collection, known as ADAMS, at: http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html. Help in using ADAMS is available by contacting the NRC's Public Document Room at 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737 or by e-mail at PDR@nrc.gov.

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