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Dallas

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**Probation threatened
for nuclear agency**

Federal officials threatened probation this week for a Texas agency that regulates nuclear issues, citing concerns over late radiation inspections and reporting due to staff shortages and jobs left vacant for months. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission placed the Texas Department of State Health Services on "heightened oversight" and gave it 30 days to

submit an improvement plan, according to a letter dated Wednesday. The "heightened oversight" status is one grade above probation, a commission spokesman said. A department official said steps were being taken to address the commission's concerns. The department is working to increase pay for health physicists to help attract workers to those positions, he said.

From wire reports