



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC TO DISCUSS CORRECTIVE ACTIONS ON DEC. 10 WITH SELF-SHIELDED IRRADIATOR SERVICES COMPANY

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold a public meeting with Gamma Irradiator Service (GIS) on Monday, Dec. 10, to discuss the actions taken and planned by the Pennsylvania-based company to prevent a recurrence of an overexposure event involving an irradiator in New Jersey on Oct. 8, 2011.

The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. at the NRC Region I Office, at 2100 Renaissance Blvd. in King of Prussia, Pa. (Directions to the office can be found at: <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/locations/region1.html>). It will take place in the Yellowstone Meeting Room (Room 2109). Members of the public will be able to ask questions of NRC staff prior to the meeting's adjournment.

Interested members of the public can participate in this meeting via a toll-free teleconference. For details about the teleconference, or if you wish to attend the meeting in person, contact Kathy Modes at 610-337-5251 or by e-mail at Kathy.Modes@NRC.GOV by Dec. 6.

GIS, which is based in Benton, Pa., performs preventive maintenance and other services on irradiators. On Oct. 8, 2011, employees of the firm were involved in an event at an irradiator facility in Raritan, N.J., in which a GIS employee and two subcontractors were exposed to radiation in excess of regulatory limits. The overexposure event occurred while a radioactive source was being loaded into an irradiator.

"While there were no expected health impacts for the workers involved in this event, the NRC is interested in the actions taken since then to prevent a recurrence or more serious event from occurring," NRC Region I Administrator Bill Dean said.

At the time of the event, the work was being performed under the jurisdiction of the State of New Jersey. However, the event raised questions for the NRC regarding the adequacy of radiological controls used by GIS, since they would also be utilized when the company was performing work that is under NRC jurisdiction.

On Oct. 20, 2011, the NRC issued a Confirmatory Action Letter to GIS (available in the NRC's electronic documents system at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> under Accession number ML112930388). That letter listed actions to be taken by the company to address issues associated with the Oct. 8, 2011 event, including retaining a third party to assess the adequacy of the company's operating and emergency procedures. With over a year since the event to implement corrective actions, GIS management will discuss those actions with the NRC at the Dec. 10th meeting.

In addition to NRC staff, representatives from regulatory agencies in New Jersey and Pennsylvania responsible for overseeing GIS activities in their respective states are expected to attend the meeting.

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