



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

July 5, 1985

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The Honorable Edward Markey, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Energy Conservation and Power  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed for your information is an announcement that the staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has cited Princeton University for alleged violations of NRC radiation protection requirements.

This announcement will be mailed to the news media today.

Sincerely,

Carlton Kammerer, Director  
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc: Rep. Carlos Moorhead

IDENTICAL LETTER SENT TO:  
Sen. Simpson/cc: Sen. Hart  
Rep. Udall/cc: Rep. Lujan

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# UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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No. I-85-68  
Contact: Karl Abraham

July 5, 1985

## NRC STAFF CITES PRINCETON UNIVERSITY FOR ALLEGED RADIATION EXPOSURE OF LABORATORY WORKER IN EXCESS OF REGULATORY LIMITS; PROPOSES \$4,000 FINE

The staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has cited Princeton University for alleged violations of NRC radiation protection requirements, resulting in a worker getting a radiation exposure in excess of NRC limits. The staff proposes to fine the University \$4,000.

On May 7, 1985, a laboratory worker was handling a radioactive material, phosphorus-32, and he received a dose of 38 rem to localized areas of his skin. The NRC regulations limit such exposures to 7.5 rem per quarter-year.

The NRC staff also cited the University because the exposed worker allegedly did not wear a protective laboratory coat that is required to be worn when handling greater than specified quantities of phosphorus-32 and because the worker allegedly failed to perform radiation surveys to detect possible contamination after handling radioactive material.

In a letter transmitting the Notice of Violation to the University, Dr. Thomas E. Murley, Regional Administrator of NRC Region I, said that the individual remained contaminated for six hours before a survey revealed the problem and led to his being decontaminated.

"This incident is of serious concern to the NRC because the use of a lab coat and performance of a survey might have prevented the excess exposure," Dr. Murley said. He also said that the NRC was concerned that as of June 14, when the NRC staff met with University officials about this incident, comprehensive long-term corrective actions, such as upgrading of procedures and training associated with the safe handling of radioactive materials, had not been initiated to prevent a recurrence of the incident.

Princeton has 30 days to either pay the proposed fine, or to request in writing that part or all of it be withdrawn, giving its reasons for any such request. The University also has 30 days to admit or deny the alleged violations, and if admitted, giving the reasons for them; corrective steps that have been taken and results achieved; corrective steps that will be taken to avoid further violations; and the date when full compliance is expected to be achieved.

The State of New Jersey has been informed of this proposed enforcement action.

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