

March 6, 1984

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The Honorable Richard L. Ottinger, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy Conservation and Power
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed for your information is an announcement that the staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has cited Pittsburgh Testing Laboratory for an alleged violation of NRC regulations.

It is planned to mail this information to the news media today, March 6, 1984.

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
Rep. Markey/cc: Rep. Marlenee
Sen. Heinz
Sen. Specter
Rep. Coyne

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SURNAME	0001						
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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, REGION I
631 Park Avenue, King of Prussia, Pa. 19406

No. I-84-32
Contact: Karl Abraham
Brian Norris
Tel: 215/337-5330
337-5000

March 6, 1984

NRC STAFF CITES PITTSBURGH TESTING LABORATORY FOR ALLEGED VIOLATION OF NRC REGULATIONS; PROPOSES \$8,000 FINE

The staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has cited Pittsburgh Testing Laboratory for an alleged violation of NRC regulations that require controlling access to high radiation areas at the company's radiographic facility in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The NRC staff proposes to fine the company \$8,000.

The alleged violation was identified during an NRC inspection of Pittsburgh Testing Laboratory conducted on January 10, 1984. The NRC inspector determined that two rooms at the facility used for radiography were not equipped with audible and visible alarms to warn people when radiography sources are removed from their shielded containers. This is a violation of NRC regulations, which require such alarms.

The NRC inspection was prompted by a report from an employee at Pittsburgh Testing Laboratory who had received, from an x-ray machine, an exposure to his thumb well above limits set by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania regulates the use of such x-ray machines. The NRC inspected the facility because NRC-licensed radioactive radiography sources are used in the same room in which the exposure occurred. Radiography is the taking of x-ray pictures of industrial products.

In a letter informing Pittsburgh Testing Laboratory of this proposed enforcement action, Dr. Thomas E. Murley, NRC Region I Administrator, said, "this violation is of significant concern to the NRC because it indicates a lack of management control and oversight of your radiation safety program."

The company has 30 days to either pay the fine or to request in writing that part or all of it be withdrawn. The company also has 30 days to write to the NRC staff and describe what was done or will be done to assure that these alleged violations do not recur.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been informed of this proposed enforcement action.

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