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ENFORCEMENT

Firms cited for violating radiation safety regulations

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission in January issued violation notices to American Engineering Testing (AET), of Saint Paul, Minn., and XCEL NDT, of Clifton, Kans., for failing to comply with NRC regulations pertaining to radiographic operations.

On January 18, the NRC informed AET that a Severity Level III violation had occurred in February 2015 at a temporary job site in Gary, Ind., involving the “deliberate” decision by a company radiographer to perform work alone rather than with at least one other qualified individual. Under 10 CFR 34.41, *Conducting Industrial Radiographic Operations*, whenever radiography is performed at a location other than a permanent radiographic installation, the radiographer must be accompanied by at least one other qualified individual. According to the NRC, “The purpose of the second qualified individual is to provide immediate assistance when needed and to prevent unauthorized entry into the restricted area where radiographic operations are being performed.”

On January 25, the NRC notified XCEL NDT that it had identified two violations of agency requirements. In September 2016, the NRC said, XCEL NDT had allowed an unqualified individual to act as a radiographer’s assistant at a temporary job site in Cheyenne, Wyo., putting the firm in violation of 10 CFR 34.43, *Training*, as well as 34.41. The agency categorized the two violations as one Severity Level III problem.

Although Severity Level III violations by large radiological material users such as AET and XCEL NDT carry potential \$14,000 civil penalties, the NRC decided not to propose fines, giving credit to the companies for corrective actions. AET’s actions included terminating the radiographer’s employment and discussing the incident with the radiography staff during annual refresher training, while XCEL NDT’s corrective actions included committing to implement training and testing requirements for employees involved in radiography, as well as a tracking system for company managers to easily assess whether an individual is qualified to perform radiography.

■ The NRC also issued Severity Level III violation notices in January to three firms for failing to properly secure portable nuclear gauges. Cited were Rozell Testing Laboratories, of Branson, Mo.; the White Earth Department of Transportation, of White Earth, Minn.; and Thrasher Engineering, of Bridgeport, W.Va. In these cases also, corrective actions by the firms convinced the agency to refrain from proposing civil penalties.



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