

DOE Cites Westinghouse Savannah River Company for Price-Anderson Violations

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WASHINGTON, DC The Department of Energy (DOE) has issued a Preliminary Notice of Violation to Westinghouse Savannah River Company (WSRC), the primary contractor for the Savannah River Site, for violations of nuclear safety rules involving the unnecessary radiation exposure of three WSRC personnel and the subsequent falsification of radiation dose records.

The violations did not result in radiation exposures to personnel in excess of regulatory limits. However, DOE took this action because of the number of personnel protective barriers that were overcome and the potential this had for more significant radiation exposure levels to personnel. In addition, WSRC failed to adequately sustain corrective actions associated with a 1999 event at the same facility. In both the 1999 event and the current event, similar deficiencies were observed.

DOE also took this action because two of the workers involved with the event intentionally recorded radiation doses below that which was actually received. This falsification of radiation dose records was done at the urging of a WSRC supervisor.

To emphasize the importance of maintaining a quality program for DOE activities, DOE is issuing a proposed civil penalty to WSRC in the amount of \$206,250. Some mitigation of the civil penalty was granted to WSRC for recently implemented corrective actions.

The Price-Anderson Amendments Act of 1988 authorized DOE to undertake regulatory actions against contractors for violations of its nuclear safety requirements. The enforcement program is designed to have contractors correct procedural violations to prevent more serious events from occurring.

Additional details on this and other enforcement actions are available on the Internet at <http://www.eh.doe.gov/enforce>.

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