home page site for 60 days after the signature date of this notice.

Comments and questions about the information collection requirements may be directed to the NRC Clearance Officer, Margaret A. Janney (T–5 F52), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001, by telephone at 301–415–7245, or by e-mail to INFOCOLLECTS@NRC.GOV.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 26th day of February 2008.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Gregory Trussell,
Acting NRC Clearance Officer, Office of Information Services.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
[Docket No. 150–000017]

In the Matter of: Accurate NDE and Inspection, LLC, Broussard, LA; General License Pursuant to: 10 CFR 150.20, EA–06–281; EA–07–289; Confirmatory Order (Effective Immediately)

I

Accurate NDE and Inspection, LLC (Accurate NDE or Licensee) is the holder of a general license pursuant to 10 CFR 150.20 issued by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or Commission). This general license was granted to Accurate NDE at various times during calendar years 2005, 2006, and 2007.

II

An NRC inspection was conducted at an Accurate NDE temporary job site located on an oil and gas platform in offshore Federal waters within the Gulf of Mexico on December 20, 2005. Following that inspection, an investigation was initiated on January 17, 2006, by the NRC’s Office of Investigations (OI) to determine whether a radiographer and a radiographer’s assistant, employed by Accurate NDE, willfully violated NRC regulations.

Based on the results of the NRC inspection and OI investigation, the NRC determined that three violations of NRC requirements occurred. The violations involved: A failure to secure an industrial radiography exposure device containing licensed material, as required by 10 CFR 20.1801 and 10 CFR 20.1802; permitting an individual who did not wear a direct reading dosimeter, an optical alarm ratemeter, and a personnel dosimeter, during radiographic operations, to act as a radiographer’s assistant, in contradiction of 10 CFR 34.47(a); and the failure to provide complete and accurate information to an NRC inspector, as required by 10 CFR 30.9(a), by providing a falsified daily radiation report. The NRC also determined that each of the violations resulted from willful actions on the part of the radiographer and the radiographer’s assistant involved. Therefore, the three violations were categorized in accordance with the NRC Enforcement Policy as a Severity Level III problem.

III

In a letter dated March 20, 2007, the NRC issued a Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalty in the amount of $13,000 for the Severity Level III problem. In the March 20, 2007, letter, the NRC offered Accurate NDE the opportunity to request Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) with the NRC in an attempt to resolve issues associated with this problem. In response, Accurate NDE requested ADR to resolve the matter with the NRC. ADR is a process in which a neutral mediator, with no decision-making authority, assists the NRC and Accurate NDE to resolve any differences regarding the matter.

An ADR session was conducted between Accurate NDE and the NRC in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on November 7, 2007. During that ADR session, an Agreement in Principle was reached. The elements of the agreement consisted of the following:

1. Accurate NDE will confirm that amended procedures for offshore radiographic activities have been submitted to the State of Louisiana for review and approval as appropriate; and submit those procedures to the NRC for information.

2. Accurate NDE will develop and implement a detailed radiation safety and security checklist for radiography crews to complete; the checklist is to include communication with the company Radiation Safety Officer or management after completion of the checklist: (1) Before leaving for an offshore job and (2) once arriving at the job site, if the ability to communicate is available. The Checklist should include a sign-off by the radiographer that they have briefed the Safety Representative/Responsible Manager on the offshore job site regarding licensed activities.

3. Accurate NDE will include those requirements in licensee procedures.

4. Accurate NDE will ensure that requirements for security of radiographic devices including requirements associated with the increased controls order and contingency actions, if unable to lock and monitor radiographic devices, are included in licensee procedures.

5. Accurate NDE will develop and implement a program for offshore audits of radiographic operations. Audit requirements and audit frequency will be included in procedures. Audit frequency will include at least one offshore audit each calendar year.

6. Accurate NDE will develop and issue a company policy encouraging employees to report problems on the job site.

7. Accurate NDE will develop and issue a personal letter from the Company President or Radiation Safety Officer to current employees regarding expectations for compliance with NRC regulations.

8. Accurate NDE will develop and publish an article in the company newsletter, or equivalent, regarding this case. Specifically, include that employee actions did cause adverse consequences for the company and for the individual.

9. All of the above requirements shall be completed by Accurate NDE within 120 days of the effective date of this Order.

In recognition of Accurate NDE’s cooperative efforts, extensive corrective actions and good faith effort, the NRC agrees to reduce the civil penalty originally proposed to $500.

On January 21, 2008, Accurate NDE consented to issuing this Order with the commitments, as described in section V below. Accurate NDE further agreed that this Order is to be effective upon issuance and that it has waived its right to a hearing.

IV

Since the Licensee has agreed to take additional actions to address NRC concerns, as set forth in Item III above, the NRC has concluded that its concerns can be resolved through issuance of this Order.

I find that the Licensee’s commitments as set forth in section V are acceptable and necessary and conclude that with these commitments the public health and safety are reasonably assured. In view of the foregoing, I have determined that public health and safety require that the Licensee’s commitments be confirmed by this Order. Based on the above and
the Licensee’s consent, this Order is immediately effective upon issuance.

V

Accordingly, pursuant to sections 81, 161b, 161i, 161o, 182, and 186 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, the Commission’s regulations in 10 CFR 2.202, 2.205, 10 CFR Parts 20, 34, and 150, it is hereby ordered, effective immediately, that:

1. Accurate NDE will confirm that amended procedures for offshore radiographic activities have been submitted to the State of Louisiana for review and approval as appropriate; and submit those procedures to the NRC for information.

2. Accurate NDE will develop and implement a detailed radiation safety and security checklist for radiographer crews to complete; the checklist is to include communication with the company Radiation Safety Officer or management after completion of the checklist: (1) Before leaving for an offshore job and (2) once arriving at the job site, if ability to communicate is available. The checklist shall include a sign-off by the radiographer that they have briefed the Safety Representative/Responsible Manager on the offshore job site regarding licensed activities. Accurate NDE will include these requirements in licensee procedures.

3. Accurate NDE will develop and provide training to all employees regarding potential consequences for wrongdoing: for new employees, before working with radioactive material; and annually (at intervals not to exceed 12 months) thereafter for all employees involved in radiographic activities.

4. Accurate NDE will ensure that requirements for security of radiographic devices including requirements associated with the increased controls order and contingency actions, if unable to lock and monitor radiographic devices, are included in licensee procedures.

5. Accurate NDE will develop and implement a program for offshore audits of radiographic operations. Audit requirements and audit frequency will be included in procedures. Audit frequency will include at least one offshore audit each calendar year.

6. Accurate NDE will develop and issue a company policy encouraging employees to report problems on the job site.

7. Accurate NDE will develop and issue a personal letter from the Company President or Radiation Safety Officer to current employees regarding expectations for compliance with NRC regulations.

8. Accurate NDE will develop and publish an article in the company newsletter, or equivalent, regarding this case. Specifically, Accurate NDE will include that employee actions did cause adverse consequences for the company and for the individual.

9. All of the above requirements shall be completed by Accurate NDE within 120 days of the effective date of this Order.

10. Within 30 days from the date of this Confirmatory Order, Accurate NDE and Inspection, LLC must pay the reduced civil penalty of $500 in accordance with NUREG/BR-0254 and submit to the Director, Office of Enforcement, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, a statement indicating when and by what method payment was made.

The Regional Administrator, NRC Region IV, may relax or rescind, in writing, any of the above conditions upon a showing by Accurate NDE of good cause.

VI

Any person adversely affected by this Confirmatory Order, other than Accurate NDE, may request a hearing within 20 days of its issuance. Where good cause is shown, consideration will be given to extending the time to answer or request a hearing. A request for extension of time must be made in writing to the Director, Office of Enforcement, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and include a statement of good cause for the extension.

A request for a hearing must be filed in accordance with the NRC E-Filing rule, which the NRC promulgated in August, 2007, 72 FR 49,139 (Aug. 28, 2007). The E-Filing process requires participants to submit and serve documents over the internet or, in some cases, to mail copies on electronic optical storage media. Participants may not submit paper copies of their filings unless they seek a waiver in accordance with the procedures described below.

To comply with the procedural requirements associated with E-Filing, at least five (5) days prior to the filing deadline the requestor must contact the Office of the Secretary by e-mail at HEARINGDOCKET@NRC.GOV, or by calling (301) 415–1677, to request (1) a digital ID certificate, which allows the participant (or its counsel or representative) to digitally sign documents and access the E-Submittal server for any NRC proceeding in which it is participating; and/or (2) creation of an electronic docket for the proceeding (even in instances when the requestor (or its counsel or representative) already holds an NRC-issued digital ID certificate). Each requestor will need to download the Workplace Forms ViewerTM to access the Electronic Information Exchange (EIE), a component of the E-Filing system. The Workplace Forms ViewerTM is free and is available at http://www.nrc.gov/site-help/e-submittals/install-viewer.html. Information about applying for a digital ID certificate also is available on NRC’s public Web site at http://www.nrc.gov/site-help/e-submittals/apply-certificates.html.

Once a requestor has obtained a digital ID certificate, had a docket created, and downloaded the EIE viewer, it can then submit a request for a hearing through EIE. Submissions should be in Portable Document Format (PDF) in accordance with NRC guidance available on the NRC public Web site at http://www.nrc.gov/site-help/e-submittals.html. A filing is considered complete at the time the filer submits its document through EIE. To be timely, electronic filings must be submitted to the EIE system no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the due date. Upon receipt of a transmission, the E-Filing system time-stamps the document and sends the submitter an e-mail notice confirming receipt of the document. The EIE system also distributes an e-mail notice that provides access to the document to the NRC Office of the General Counsel and any others who have advised the Office of the Secretary that they wish to participate in the proceeding, so that the filer need not serve the document on those participants separately. Therefore, any others who wish to participate in the proceeding (or their counsel or representative) must apply for and receive a digital ID certificate before a hearing request is filed so that they may obtain access to the document via the E-Filing system.

A person filing electronically may seek assistance through the “Contact Us” link located on the NRC Web site at http://www.nrc.gov/site-help/e-submittals.html or by calling the NRC technical help line at 1-800-397-4209, available between 8:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday. The help line number is (800) 397–4209 or locally, (301) 415–4737.

Participants who believe that they have good cause for not submitting documents electronically must file a motion, in accordance with 10 CFR 2.302(g), with their initial paper filing requesting authorization to continue to submit documents in paper format. Such filings must be submitted by (1) first class mail addressed to the Office of the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission,
PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

Approval of Variance From the Bond/ Escrow Requirement Relating to the Sale of Assets by an Employer Who Contributes to a Multiemployer Plan: P&O Ports Florida, Inc.

AGENCY: Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

ACTION: Notice of approval.

SUMMARY: The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation has granted a request from the P&O Ports Florida, Inc., (“P&O Ports”) for a variance from the bond/escrow requirement of section 4204(a)(1)(B) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, with respect to the Tampa Maritime Association-International Longshoremen’s Association Pension Plan. A notice of the request for a variance from the requirement was published on August 3, 2007 (72 FR 43297). The effect of this notice is to advise the public of the decision on the request.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Background

Under section 4204 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended by the Multiemployer Pension Plan Amendments Act of 1980 (“ERISA” or “the Act”), a complete or partial withdrawal of an employer from a multiemployer plan does not occur solely because, as a result of a bona fide arm’s-length sale of assets to an unrelated party, the seller ceases covered operations or ceases to have an obligation to contribute for such operations, if the following conditions under section 4204(a)(1)(A)–(C) of ERISA are met:

(A) The purchaser has an obligation to contribute to the plan with respect to the operations for substantially the same number of contribution base units for which the seller was obligated to contribute;

(B) The purchaser obtains a bond or places an amount in escrow, for a period of five plan years after the sale, in an amount equal to the greater of the seller’s average required annual contribution to the plan for the three plan years preceding the year in which the sale occurred or the seller’s required annual contribution for the plan year preceding the year in which the sale occurred (the amount of the bond or escrow is doubled if the plan is in reorganization in the year in which the sale occurred); and

(C) The contract of sale provides that if the purchaser withdraws from the plan within the first five plan years beginning after the sale and fails to pay any of its liability to the plan, the seller shall be secondarily liable for the liability it would have had but for section 4204.

The bond or escrow described above would be paid to the plan if the purchaser withdraws from the plan or fails to make any required contributions to the plan within the first five plan years beginning after the sale.

Additionally, under section 4204(b)(1), if a sale of assets is covered by section 4204, the purchaser assumes by operation of law the contribution record of the seller for the plan year in which the sale occurred and the preceding four plan years.

Section 4204(c) of ERISA authorizes the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (“PBGC”) to grant individual or class variances or exemptions from the purchaser’s bond/escrow requirement when warranted. The legislative history of section 4204 indicates a Congressional intent that the asset sale rules be administered in a manner that assures protection of the plan with the least practicable intrusion into normal business transactions.

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(C) The contract of sale provides that if the purchaser withdraws from the plan within the first five plan years beginning after the sale and fails to pay any of its liability to the plan, the seller shall be secondarily liable for the liability it would have had but for section 4204.

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