



Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

# NEWS RELEASE

Office of Communications  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

4300 Cherry Creek Dr. S. | Denver, CO 80246  
303-692-2021 | [cdpheofficeofcommunications@cdphe.state.co.us](mailto:cdpheofficeofcommunications@cdphe.state.co.us)

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**CONTACT:**

Warren Smith  
Community Involvement Manager  
Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division  
303-692-3373  
[warren.smith@state.co.us](mailto:warren.smith@state.co.us)

## **Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment orders Grand Junction company to pay \$240,500 for radiation safety violations**

DENVER — The Radioactive Materials Unit of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has ordered Advance Painting Services, Inc., doing business as APS T&T, and Ricky Perkins, the company's radiation safety officer, to pay a \$240,500 penalty for violations of the Colorado Radiation Control Act and the Colorado Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Radiation Control. A Georgia company with a Grand Junction office, APS T&T provides industrial radiography services as part of its business operations. The company is licensed by the state to possess and use radioactive materials contained in radiographic equipment used at job sites anywhere in the state of Colorado.

State inspectors identified the following violations:

- Making false statements, representations or certifications to the Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division that interfered with an investigation (two counts)
- Performing industrial radiography without a valid radioactive materials license
- Failure to have a certified radiographer observe and supervise radiographic operations
- Failure to provide personnel dosimetry devices to workers
- Failure to obtain and include the results of an FBI fingerprint check as part of a background investigation prior to determining that a new employee was trustworthy and reliable
- Failure to maintain the required and necessary records for inspection
- Failure to provide haz-mat transportation refresher training to employees
- Failure to post appropriate signage for a room or area containing radioactive materials

Radiography equipment has several industrial applications, such as inspecting the quality of welds using a highly radioactive material called Iridium 192. Using Iridium 192 without approved procedures and state oversight can result in excessive radiation exposures to workers and members of the public

who may be in the vicinity of the jobsite or storage area. Although there is no evidence that APS T&T workers or the public were harmed as a result of the violations, the company is required to notify workers that they may have been put at risk. Increased likelihood of cancer is the primary risk from overexposure.

State inspectors determined that Perkins began performing radiography services in May 2011, prior to the date a radioactive materials license was issued to APS T&T. During a July 18, 2011 inspection, Perkins repeatedly told inspectors the company did not start those activities until after the license had been issued.

“Several of these violations could have put the health of employees at risk,” said Jennifer Opila, leader of the Radioactive Materials Unit. “Failure to provide dosimetry monitors to workers is particularly serious, because it would be easy to exceed the annual radiation dose limit without careful tracking. Incomplete background checks are an important national security consideration when employees have access to radioactive materials that could be misused. Finally, employees need regular training and certification to ensure they can safely handle and transport these materials.”

Perkins is prohibited from working as a radiation safety officer and from directing others in the use of radioactive materials in Colorado for the next four years. Colorado officials have notified the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and all state radiation programs about the compliance order.

The company and Perkins have 30 days to pay the penalty or request a hearing. Penalty payments — minus collection costs — go to the state’s general fund.

A license is required to receive, possess, use, transfer or acquire most radioactive materials in Colorado. The Radioactive Materials Unit in the Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment regulates radioactive materials licensees in the state.