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NRC STAFF TO MEET WITH ALLIEDSIGNAL FOR ENFORCEMENT CONFERENCE
ON RECENT INSPECTION FINDINGS AT METROPOLIS PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet April 29 in Lisle, Illinois, with AlliedSignal, Inc., officials for a predecisional enforcement conference on NRC inspections findings resulting from a January 27 incident at the company's Metropolis, Illinois, uranium processing plant.

The meeting will be at 1 p.m. in the Third Floor Conference Room of the NRC's Region III Office, 801 Warrenville Road, Lisle. The meeting will be open to public observation. NRC officials will be available after the meeting for questions and comments from the public and the news media.

In the January 27 incident, a small amount of uranium hexafluoride was released inside the plant and three workers received minor burns or skin irritations. The NRC conducted a special inspection, called an Augmented Team Inspection (AIT), to review the circumstances of the release of the uranium compound. The safety and environmental consequences of the incident were minor.

The AIT inspection and a followup inspection determined that plant personnel had not followed procedures during maintenance on plant equipment, leading to the small release of uranium hexafluoride. The inspectors also found other instances where the actual plant practices do not comply with established procedures and identified other apparent violations unrelated to the January 27 incident.

The purpose of the predecisional enforcement conference is to discuss the apparent violations and provide the company an opportunity to respond and to provide details of its corrective actions and other additional information.

The information presented in the predecisional enforcement conference will be considered in determining the appropriate enforcement action. The enforcement action will not be determined at the meeting; a decision on the enforcement action is usually issued several weeks after the conference.

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