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FEDERAL FIELD EXERCISE TO BE CONDUCTED IN PENNSYLVANIA

A Federal Field Exercise (FFE) will be conducted at the Susquehanna nuclear power plant near Berwick, Pa. during the week of February 22, 1993 to demonstrate emergency response capabilities in a simulated accident.

Approximately 2000 Federal, State and local officials will be involved in efforts to achieve prompt and coordinated actions for protecting public health and safety as they exercise the Federal Radiological Emergency Response plan.

The exercise is sponsored by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Federal Emergency Management Agency and will be hosted by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company, operator of the Susquehanna plant. Allegheny Electric Company is a co-owner of the power plant.

This will be the third Federal Field Exercise to be conducted at nuclear power plants in the U.S. The other two were at the St. Lucie plant in Florida in 1984 and at the Zion plant in Illinois in 1987. In addition, major tabletop exercises have been conducted in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Louisiana.

Each of the Nation's nuclear power plants conducts annual onsite exercises to test response personnel and their emergency plans and every two years they are joined by local and state governments around the plant. The Federal Field exercises involve larger numbers of people and participating organizations and are conducted over several days, whereas the annual and biennial exercises are normally completed in one day. Lessons learned from each exercise are incorporated into future plans and scenarios and are used to build a solid foundation for responding in the event of a major nuclear accident anywhere in the United States.

In the 1993 Federal exercise, other key Federal participants in addition to the sponsoring agencies are the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health and Human Services. Some local and state agencies within the 10-mile emergency planning zone around the Susquehanna facility also will participate and the American Nuclear Insurers, an insurance pool that provides private nuclear liability insurance, will be involved.

The participating agencies will operate public information centers, as well as other major centers for response coordination. Locations and telephone numbers for public information concerning this cooperative effort will be provided closer to the time of the exercise.

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(This information is being released simultaneously by the Federal
Emergency Management Agency and the Commonwealth of

Pennsylvania.)