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NRC STAFF TO HOLD ENFORCEMENT CONFERENCE IN ATLANTA TO DISCUSS
FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT CONCERNS ~~COMPANY~~ SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING

Meeting Will Be Open To Observation By The Public

Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials will hold a Predecisional Enforcement Conference in Atlanta at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 22 to discuss NRC concerns related to the technical specifications for the steam generators at Southern Nuclear Operating Company's Farley plant near Columbia, Alabama.

The meeting will be in the NRC offices at 101 Marietta Street, N.W., Suite 2900.

NRC officials have regulatory concerns with an apparent violation involving Farley plant employees not following their technical specifications in checking steam generator tubes where they go through a large metal plate that provides stability for the tubes. The steam generators at the plant are the point where primary water from the reactor heats secondary water surrounding the tubes into steam.

The predecisional enforcement conference is open to observation by the public under an NRC policy initiated in 1992 which opens every fourth such meeting to public scrutiny. The meeting is between the NRC and the licensee, but NRC officials are available at its conclusion to answer questions from interested observers.

The decision to hold an enforcement conference does not mean the NRC has determined that a violation has occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. Rather, the purpose is to discuss apparent violations, their causes and safety significance; to provide the licensee an opportunity to point out any errors that may have been made in the NRC inspection report; and to enable the company to outline its proposed corrective actions.

No decision on the apparent violations or any contemplated enforcement action, such as a civil penalty, will be made at this conference. Those decisions will be made by senior NRC officials

at a later time.

Recorded information on upcoming open enforcement conferences also will be available by calling 1-800-952-9674.

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