U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION III Office of Public Affairs
801 Warrenville Road, Lisle, IL 60532-4351

NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT: RIII-96-57 September 19, 1996
CONTACT: Jan Strasma 630/829-9663
Angela Dauginas 630/829-9662
E-mail: opa3@nrc.gov

NRC OPERATIONAL SAFETY TEAM TO PRESENT FINDINGS AT FERMI NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet Tuesday (September 24) with Detroit Edison Company officials to discuss the findings of an operational safety inspection at the Fermi 2 Nuclear Power Plant at Monroe, Michigan.

The meeting, which is open to public observation, will begin at 1:00 p.m. (EDT). It will take place in the Monroe City Council Chambers, 120 East First Street, Monroe, Michigan.

This special inspection team evaluated the effectiveness of the corrective action program -- a program which identifies and resolves problems -- developed by the utility. The team also assessed the performance capability of selected safety systems. Onsite inspections were done August 22 - August 30 and September 9 - September 13.

NRC staff scheduled the special inspection after reviewing the plant's performance history including the NRC's latest Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP). The SALP report noted that many of the weaknesses identified in the previous SALP report were still evident and one of the plant's major challenges will be implementing an effective problem identification and corrective action program.

In order to conduct an independent review, the inspection team members were drawn from NRC headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. The team also includes outside consultants. The eight-person team is headed by Peter Koltay, a senior operations officer from NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

The team will issue a written report in several weeks.

# # # #