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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NRC, UNION ELECTRIC OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS
APPARENT VIOLATIONS AT CALLAWAY PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold a predecisional enforcement conference next week with officials of Union Electric Co. to discuss three apparent violations of NRC requirements at the Callaway nuclear power plant near Fulton, Missouri.

The conference will begin at 10 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 15, at the NRC Region IV office in Arlington, Texas. The meeting will be open to the public for observation; NRC officials will be available afterwards for questions.

During an inspection conducted in February, NRC inspectors found three instances in which Union Electric made changes to certain plant systems without preparing an adequate written safety evaluation report, as required. Each is considered an apparent violation.

The first instance involves changes in the method of operation, from automatic to manual, of a system designed to sample reactor coolant water during and after an accident. The second involves changes to certain settings on a machine that lifts fuel bundles during refueling. The third involves changes, from automatic to manual, in the method of operation of a set of fans in the diesel generator building.

The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that NRC has made a final determination that a violation did occur or that enforcement action will be taken. The purpose is to discuss the apparent violations, their causes and safety significance, and to provide Union Electric an opportunity to challenge or correct portions of the NRC inspection report and address corrective actions.

No decision on the apparent violations or any enforcement action will be made at the conference. Those decisions will be made later by senior NRC officials.

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