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Region III Office of Public Affairs
801 Warrenville Road, Lisle, IL 60532-4351

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NRC TO HOLD PREDECISIONAL ENFORCEMENT CONFERENCE
WITH DETROIT EDISON COMPANY

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet August 6 with representatives of Detroit Edison Company for a predecisional enforcement conference on apparent violations at the Fermi Nuclear Power Station. The facility is near Monroe, Michigan.

The conference will start at 2 p.m. in the Third Floor Conference Room of the NRC Region III Office, 801 Warrenville Road, Lisle, Illinois. It is open to public observation.

The discussion will focus on inadequate maintenance and corrective action on certain switches, gears, and motor-operated valves, affecting safety systems at the plant. Also to be discussed is the utility's failure to take corrective action regarding an inadequate calibration technique used on oxygen monitors inside the plant containment building. Plant staff subsequently discovered that, as a result of the calibration inaccuracy, some of the monitors were inoperable on nine occasions since 1989. These instruments would be used in case of some severe accidents.

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 fine, will be made at this conference. Those decisions will be made by senior NRC officials at a later date.

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