

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Public Affairs, Region II
61 Forsyth Street, Suite 23T85
Atlanta, GA 30303

No: II-97-64

September 12, 1997

Contact: Ken Clark 404-562-4416

Roger Hannah 404-562-4417

**NRC STAFF TO HOLD CONFERENCE WITH DUKE POWER COMPANY TO
DISCUSS APPARENT VIOLATIONS AT McGUIRE NUCLEAR PLANT**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold a predecisional enforcement conference with Duke Power Company on Friday, September 19, to discuss apparent violations of NRC regulations involving security at the McGuire nuclear power plant near Huntersville, North Carolina.

The apparent violations involve repeated incidents of failing to cancel access badges of terminated employees and repeated instances of employees removing access badges from the plant's protected area. An NRC inspection in late July found that between April 19, 1996 and July 8, 1997, on several occasions, Duke failed to deactivate the access badges of terminated employees as required by NRC regulations and Duke procedures. The same inspection found that between February 5 and July 10 of this year, access badges were taken outside the protected area several times by persons who were not escorted by security personnel. None of the incidents resulted in unauthorized access to vital safety equipment.

The meeting will be held in the NRC Atlanta office, located at 61 Forsyth Street, Room 24T20, at 10:00 p.m. It will be open to observation by the public.

NRC officials said the decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that a determination has been made that a violation has occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. The purpose is to discuss apparent violations, their causes, and safety significance; to provide the licensee with an opportunity to point out any errors that may have been made in NRC inspection reports; 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 the conference. Those decisions will be made by NRC officials at a later time.

#