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NRC, ENERGY TO MEET FOR DISCUSSION ON
POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS AT WATERFORD 3

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold a predecisional enforcement conference on Tuesday, April 8, with officials of Entergy Operations, Inc., the operator of Waterford 3 nuclear power plant near Taft, La. The parties will discuss four apparent violations of NRC requirements.

The conference will begin at 1 p.m. at NRC Region IV offices in Arlington, Texas. The meeting will be open to public observation; NRC officials will be available afterwards for questions.

The apparent violations were identified during an inspection conducted February 3-28. All four are related to the design, operation and testing of the containment cooling system, which is designed to control the temperature and pressure inside the containment structure in the event of an accident.

The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that NRC has made a final determination that violations did occur or that enforcement action, such as a monetary fine, will be taken. The purpose is to discuss the apparent violations, their causes and safety significance, and to provide Entergy officials an opportunity to point out any errors that may have been made in the NRC inspection report and present corrective actions that have been taken.

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 late time.

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