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I-96-78

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December 6, 1996

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALVERT CLIFFS NUCLEAR PLANT RATED "SUPERIOR" IN THREE AREAS,
"GOOD" IN FOURTH AREA OF NRC ASSESSMENT REPORT

The Calvert Cliffs nuclear power plant received performance ratings of "superior" in three areas and "good" in the fourth area of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's latest systematic assessment of licensee performance (SALP) of the facility.

The SALP report was sent Tuesday (December 3) to Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BG&E), which operates the facility in Lusby, Maryland. It evaluates the plant's performance from May 14, 1995, through October 19 of this year.

The NRC staff will meet with officials of BG&E to discuss the SALP at 12:30 p.m. on December 13, 1996, at the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant Visitors Center. It will be open for public observation.

NRC SALP reports rate licensees in four functional areas — plant operations, maintenance, engineering, and plant support — and assign ratings of Category 1, 2 or 3 depending on whether performance in those areas was superior, good or adequate. This report gives Calvert Cliffs a Category 1 (superior) rating in operations, engineering and plant support, and a Category 2 rating in maintenance, indicating "good" performance.

In a letter to BG&E, NRC Regional Administrator Hubert J. Miller said Calvert Cliffs' overall performance improved during the SALP period, which he said was marked by strong management involvement in and oversight of plant activities and which consistently reflected a strong safety perspective.

"Self-assessment was effectively used to achieve performance improvement goals," Mr. Miller wrote. "Management was effective in addressing problems identified in the previous assessment period. This included steps to improve reactivity management and reduce the frequency of automatic plant trips. The performance of both the on-site and off-site safety committees continued to be strong as evidenced by consistently comprehensive reviews, questioning attitudes and strong safety perspective."

Mr. Miller said licensed operators' performance continued to be strong and appropriately focused on reactor safety and that outage activities were well coordinated and safely conducted.

"Major maintenance evolutions were effectively managed, the number of maintenance-related events decreased and the maintenance backlog was reduced," Mr. Miller said. "System engineering and design activities continued to contribute effectively to station safety performance as evidenced, for example, by strong support of the station's trip prevention efforts and normally timely resolution of emergent equipment problems."

Mr. Miller also noted that BG&E implemented a significantly improved program to keep radiation exposures as low as reasonably achievable.

EDITORS: A copy of the full SALP report is available from this office. SALP reports are also available on the NRC's Internet web site (<http://www.nrc.gov/OPA>) and by e-mail subscription. To receive SALP reports by e-mail as they are issued, send an e-mail to listproc@nrc.gov with the following message: `subscribe salp yourfirstname yourlastname.`

