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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**NRC STAFF TO HOLD PREDECISIONAL ENFORCEMENT CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS
CRYSTAL RIVER NUCLEAR POWER PLANT CONCERNS WITH FLORIDA POWER**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold a predecisional enforcement conference with Florida Power Corporation on Thursday, May 22, to discuss an apparent violation regarding the control of safeguards information at the Crystal River nuclear plant near Crystal River, Florida.

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

The apparent violation involves occasions in January and March 1997 where documents containing safeguards information were left unattended and not locked in a security storage container as required by NRC regulations. Florida Power has been cited by the NRC for previous violations at the Crystal River plant involving the control of safeguards information. Safeguards information is related to physical protection of both fixed nuclear sites and certain kinds of nuclear material transportation as well as inspection reports, audits, evaluations and correspondence discussing those protection systems or plans.

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.

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