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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NRC TO HOLD PREDECISIONAL ENFORCEMENT CONFERENCE WITH PP&L

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with officials of Pennsylvania Power & Light (PP&L) Company on Tuesday, May 5, to discuss three apparent violations of agency requirements involving an emergency shutdown system at the Susquehanna nuclear power plant. PP&L owns and operates the facility, which is home to twin boiling-water reactors and is located in Berwick, in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. in the Public Meeting Room at the NRC Region 1 office in King of Prussia, Pa., the predecisional enforcement conference will be open to the public for observation.

The apparent violations may have led to the Unit 1 Standby Liquid Control System being in a degraded condition and possibly inoperable. In the event the plant's control rods were unavailable to shut down the reactor, the system would be used to inject a neutron-absorbing solution and halt the fission process.

Two of the potential infractions involve pressure below an acceptable level in a Standby Liquid Control System accumulator, a nitrogen-filled tank that helps reduce vibrations in the system. The other stems from the adequacy of maintenance activities for a portion of the system.

The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that the NRC has determined 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 with an opportunity to point out any errors that may have been made in the NRC inspection report; and to enable the licensee to outline its proposed corrective action.

No decision on the apparent violations will be made at this conference. That decision will be made by NRC officials at a later time.

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