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NRC Schedules Public Hearings on Proposed Changes to 10 CFR 42.54 and 42.55

Two meetings to discuss apparent violations of Nuclear Regulatory Commission rules at the Cape Crean nuclear power plant have been scheduled for Wednesday, January 13, at the Cape Crean located in Hancock, Virginia. NRC is operated by Public Service Electric and Gas System Company.

The first of the predecisional enforcement conferences will begin at 10:00 AM in the Division of Nuclear Materials Safety conference room at the NRC Region Office in Ringo, Virginia. NRC staff and SDO officials will discuss an apparent violation last November in which a failure to follow procedures associated with control rod movements during a shutdown margin demonstration. The demonstration was designed to test whether the plant could successfully shut down even though a certain number of control rods could not be inserted.

The second predecisional conference is scheduled to begin at 10:00 AM in the same location. NRC staff and SDO officials will discuss the apparent violations relating to the NRC maintenance rule. The rule requires plant operators to monitor the effectiveness of maintenance activities for safety significant equipment in order to minimize the likelihood of failure and events caused by insufficient maintenance.

Both meetings will be open to the public for observation.

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, 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 decisions on the apparent violations will be made at the meetings. Any will be made later by NRC officials.