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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NRC TO DISCUSS APPARENT PACKAGING VIOLATION WITH PA. COMPANY

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with representatives of a Pennsylvania company on Wednesday, May 20, to discuss an apparent violation of agency requirements. The apparent infraction by Cabot Performance Materials of Boyertown, Pa., involves a failure to ensure that packages containing radioactive material were properly prepared for shipping.

Late last year, Cabot was shipping filtercake, a type of manufacturing residue containing radioactive material, from its facility in Boyertown to a uranium mill in Utah for processing. NRC inspectors determined that while en route by train, some of the containers began leaking because liquid had separated from the filtercake and the containers were not designed to hold liquid.

The predecisional enforcement conference is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. in the Public Meeting Room at the NRC Region I office in King of Prussia, Pa. It 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; 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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