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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NRC, PSE&G TO DISCUSS APPARENT VIOLATIONS AT SALEM PLANT
DURING TWO PREDECISIONAL ENFORCEMENT CONFERENCES ON JULY 8

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold two meetings with Public Service Electric & Gas (PSE&G) Company officials on Tuesday, July 8, to discuss apparent violations of agency guidelines at the Salem nuclear power plant in New Jersey.

During the first predecisional enforcement conference, scheduled to begin at 10 a.m., there will be a discussion of longstanding apparent violations of the fire protection program at the Hancocks Bridge, N.J., plant, which is operated by PSE&G. The apparent infractions have existed since the late 1970s.

The topic of the second predecisional enforcement conference, which will get under way at 1 p.m., will be apparent violations regarding the ability of the Residual Heat Removal System to function under certain design conditions. The system is used, among other things, to remove decay heat from the reactor core following a reactor shutdown. An NRC inspection earlier this year found the system might not operate as intended during a certain accident scenario.

Both meetings will be held in the public meeting room in the NRC Region 1 office in King of Prussia, Pa. They will be open to the public for observation only.

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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