

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Office of Public Affairs, Region I  
475 Allendale Road King of Prussia, PA 19406  
Fax: 610/337-5241  
Internet: dps@nrc.gov or nas@nrc.gov

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Contact: Diane Screnci (610/337-5330) FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Neil A. Sheehan (610/337-5331)

NRC, NIAGARA MOHAWK TO DISCUSS APPARENT VIOLATIONS  
AT NINE MILE POINT PLANTS INVOLVING RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation officials on Friday, December 19, to discuss apparent violations of agency requirements at the utility's Nine Mile Point 1 and 2 nuclear power plants. The plants are located in Oswego, N.Y.

The apparent violations relate to shortcomings in the plants' radioactive waste programs and errors in the transportation of radioactive waste.

Scheduled to begin at 10 a.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.

Specifically, the issues to be discussed include: the shipment of two core shroud samples that caused radiation levels in the transportation vehicle's occupied space to exceed federal limits; the incorrect shipment of a liner of low-level radioactive waste; two shipments, in 1995 and 1997, of radioactive material to a facility not licensed to receive the material; insufficient controls in the radioactive waste process control program; a failure to conduct audits of vendors supplying radioactive waste services and equipment; and a failure to identify and correct radioactive waste program deficiencies.

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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