

**United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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NRC, OPERATOR OF FITZPATRICK PLANT TO DISCUSS APPARENT VIOLATIONS

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with officials of the New York Power Authority on Thursday, February 19, to discuss apparent violations of agency requirements involving a reactor system at the James A. FitzPatrick nuclear power plant. The authority owns and operates the Scriba, N.Y., plant.

The predecisional enforcement conference will begin at 10 a.m. in the Public Meeting Room at the NRC Region 1 office in King of Prussia, Pa. It will be open to the public for observation.

Two apparent violations were identified by an NRC inspection and pertain to the design of the traversing incore probe system, which is used to calibrate reactor power monitors. They involve the introduction of an unresolved safety question because prior NRC review and approval was required, but not obtained, before the system was installed. This change resulted in the possibility that associated containment isolation valves would not remain shut under all conditions.

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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