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NRC TO MEET WITH ENTERGY TO DISCUSS APPARENT VIOLATIONS
AT WATERFORD 3 NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold a predecisional enforcement conference Thursday, March 26, with officials of Entergy Operations, Inc., the operator of Waterford 3 nuclear power plant near Taft, La., to discuss six apparent violations of NRC requirements.

The conference will begin at 1 p.m. at NRC Region IV offices in Arlington, Texas. The meeting will be open to public observation; NRC officials will be available afterward for questions.

The apparent violations were identified during an engineering inspection conducted between December 1, 1997, and February 5 of this year. All the apparent violations concern engineering related deficiencies with safety systems, including failure to conduct engineering analyses and safety evaluations as required, failure to obtain NRC approvals for various changes in equipment, and other problems involving corrective actions, test control and the reporting of these problems to the NRC.

The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that NRC has made a final determination that violations did occur or that enforcement action, such as a monetary fine, will be taken. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the apparent violations, their causes and safety significance, and to provide Entergy officials with an opportunity to point out any errors that may have been made in the NRC inspection report and present corrective actions that have been taken.

No decision on the apparent violations or any contemplated enforcement action will be made at this conference. Those decisions will be made by senior NRC officials at a later time.

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