

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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NRC STAFF TO HOLD PREDECISIONAL ENFORCEMENT CONFERENCE
WITH NIAGRA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will hold a predecisional enforcement conference Friday (April 12) with Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. to discuss four apparent violations of NRC regulations at the Nine Mile Point 1 Nuclear Station in Scriba, New York.

Specific topics set for discussion are the inoperability of the reactor and turbine building pressure relief panels, as well as Niagara Mohawk's processes involving design control, reportability, safety assessment and procedural adherence, all of which are related to the control panel's inoperability.

The metal pressure relief panels, located near the top of the turbine and reactor buildings, are designed to blow off and relieve excess pressure under some accident conditions. However, based on the results of an NRC inspection conducted February 17 through March 11, it appears the panels would not have functioned as designed from the time the plant began operating in December 1969 through March 1995.

The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that the NRC has determined that 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 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 actions. No decision on the apparent violations will be made at this conference. Those decisions will be made by senior NRC officials at a later time.

The meeting, which is open to public observation, will be held at 10 a.m. at the NRC Region I Office at 475 Allendale Road in King of Prussia, Pa.

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