

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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No. 96-109

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Thursday, August 1, 1996)

NRC STAFF ISSUES HADDAM NECK INSPECTION REPORT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has issued a letter and final report on a special NRC team inspection of engineering and licensing activities at Northeast Utilities' Haddam Neck nuclear station in Connecticut.

The team concluded that weaknesses exist in the process that ensures that the plant is maintained in conformance with its licensing bases. In addition, the team found weaknesses in the plant's internal process to identify, evaluate and correct problems. Specifically, the team found that:

--Engineering calculations and analyses relied on to assure the adequacy of the design of key safety systems, such as station batteries, emergency diesel generators, containment air recirculation system and service water system, were incomplete or incorrect.

--Sections of the plant's Updated Final Safety Analysis Report were in error and changes to the report had not been properly evaluated. This document describes a facility's design and operating limits, and provides a safety analysis of its structures, systems and components.

A predecisional enforcement conference will be scheduled at a later date to discuss significant deficiencies and apparent violations of NRC requirements identified during the team's inspection. The decision to hold the 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.

When the conference is held it will be open to public observation.

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EDITORS: A copy of the executive summary of the inspection report is available upon request from the NRC's Office of Public Affairs. The summary and full inspection report have been posted on the Internet at this address: <http://www.nrc.gov/OPA/reports>.