

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Office of Public Affairs, Region I  
475 Allendale Road King of Prussia, PA 19401  
Phone: 610/337-5330 Fax: 610/337-5241  
Internet: dps@nrc.gov or nas@nrc.gov

I-97-17

March 3, 1997

Contact:

Diane Screnci  
Neil A. Sheehan

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### NRC STAFF SCHEDULES PREDECISIONAL ENFORCEMENT CONFERENCE REGARDING APPARENT VIOLATIONS AT BEAVER VALLEY NUCLEAR PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with officials of the Beaver Valley nuclear power plant on Friday, March 7, to discuss apparent violations at the Duquense Light Company-operated facility in Shippingport, Pa. Scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. in the Region I public meeting room, the predecisional enforcement conference will be open to the public for observation only.

The apparent violations stem from mispositioned valves and other components. Specifically, last July 14, plant operators reported that a service water cross-connect valve, located between the containment recirculation spray heat exchangers, was closed and therefore out of its normal alignment.

Since July 15, other examples of safety- and nonsafety-related valves and breakers not in their intended position or not properly secured were identified by Duquense Light. The utility has taken steps aimed at avoiding any recurrences.

An NRC decision to hold a pre-decisional enforcement conference does not mean the agency 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 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.

#