I-97-113   August 27, 1997
Contact: Diane Screnci   FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
            Neil A. Sheehan

NRC, B&W TO DISCUSS APPARENT VIOLATIONS AT PENNSYLVANIA FACILITY

   The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff and representatives of the Babcock & Wilcox (B&W) Company will meet on Thursday, August 28, to discuss apparent violations of agency requirements at the firm's facility in Parks Township, Pa. The apparent infractions pertain to the facility's radiation safety program and the control of work practices.

        Scheduled to begin at 10:30 a.m. in the public meeting room at the NRC Region I office in King of Prussia, Pa., the predecisional enforcement conference will be open to the public for observation.

        B&W is working to remediate residual contamination at the site. On June 26, remediation activities there resulted in three workers suffering minor contamination.

        During a follow-up inspection of this incident conducted from July 9 through 11, NRC staff identified three apparent violations. They include: an insufficient review of remediation techniques at the facility from a radiation safety standpoint; failure to use engineering controls to limit airborne concentrations of radioactive material; and inadequate monitoring of the concentration of airborne radioactivity in the vicinity of workers.

        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

        No decision on the apparent violations will be made at this conference. That decision will be made by NRC officials at a later time.

2

#