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NRC SPECIAL EVALUATION TEAM TO MEET SEPT. 24 WITH ILLINOIS POWER TO BEGIN REVIEW AT CLINTON NUCLEAR POWER STATION

A Nuclear Regulatory Commission Special Evaluation Team will meet Wednesday, September 24, with Illinois Power Company to begin its onsite review of performance at the Clinton Nuclear Power Station, including the utility's ongoing Integrated Safety Assessment being performed by industry peers.

The meeting will be at 10 a.m. in the utility's Energy and Environmental Center on Illinois Highway 54 east of Clinton. It is open to public observation.

The meeting will discuss the objectives, scope, and schedule of the NRC team's evaluation of the utility's Integrated Safety Assessment and the independent review of Clinton plant performance by the team. The 10-member team is headed by Kenneth E. Perkins, Jr., who is Director of the NRC's Field Office in Walnut Creek, California.

The NRC team will observe the work of the utility assessment at the Clinton site September 24-October 3. Its independent onsite follow-up is scheduled for October 20-31.

The NRC team will discuss its findings in a meeting with the utility which will be open to the public, tentatively scheduled for early December. Written reports of both the utility and NRC reviews will be available to the public.

Because of a declining performance trend at the Clinton plant, NRC senior staff managers recommended to the Commission in June that either an NRC diagnostic evaluation be performed at Clinton or that a similar examination be done by the utility with NRC oversight. As a result of these concerns, Illinois Power decided on the independent safety assessment process using a team of industry peers and outside consultants.

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(Note: The NRC's Special Evaluation Team was discussed in News Announcement RIII-97-78, issued August 22.)