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NRC, ENTERGY TO DISCUSS APPARENT VIOLATIONS
AT WATERFORD 3 NUCLEAR PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold a predecisional enforcement conference Friday, January 23, with officials of Entergy Operations Inc., which operates the Waterford 3 nuclear power plant near Taft, Louisiana, to discuss apparent violations of NRC requirements.

The conference will begin at 10:30 a.m. at NRC Region IV offices in Arlington, Texas. The meeting will be open to public observation; NRC officials will be available afterward for questions.

The apparent violations were identified during an inspection conducted November 17 through December 5, 1997, and involve mis-operation of a safety-related cooling system, the auxiliary component cooling water system. Operators allowed both trains of the system to be inoperable at the same time and failed to detect and correct the problem for more than seven hours.

The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that NRC has made a final determination that violations did occur or that enforcement action, such as a monetary fine, will be taken. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the apparent violations, their causes and safety significance, and to provide Entergy officials with an opportunity to point out any errors that may have been made in the NRC inspection report and present corrective actions that have been taken.

No decision on the apparent violations or any contemplated enforcement action will be made at this conference. Those decisions will be made by senior NRC officials at a later time.

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