

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 vld@nrc.gov

I-96-29

Contact: Diane Screnci
Victor Dricks

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 7, 1996

NRC STAFF TO HOLD PREDECISIONAL ENFORCEMENT CONFERENCE
WITH NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will hold a predecisional enforcement conference Friday (May 10) with Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. (NMPC) to discuss its handling of the termination of an engineer at the Nine Mile Point Unit 2 facility near Oswego, N.Y.

The meeting follows a recommended decision on March 15 by a U.S. Department of Labor Administrative Law Judge in favor of a former independent safety engineering group engineer. The engineer, claiming he was the subject of unlawful discrimination, filed a Department of Labor complaint after NMPC terminated his employment in February 1994. The engineer alleged that his termination was in retaliation for his bringing safety-related concerns to the attention of the company's senior management. NRC regulations prohibit discrimination of individuals who raise safety concerns.

The decision to hold a pre-decisional 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; 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.

The meeting, which is open to public observation, will be held at 1 p.m. at the NRC Region I Office in King of Prussia, Pa.
