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I-97-48

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May 8, 1997

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NRC, CONNECTICUT COMPANY TO DISCUSS APPARENT VIOLATION  
INVOLVING WATCHES

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with representatives of Cartier Inc. on Thursday, May 15, to discuss an apparent violation of agency requirements at the company's Shelton, Conn., manufacturing facility. The predecisional enforcement conference will begin at 1 p.m. in the Division of Nuclear Materials Safety conference room at NRC Region 1 offices in King of Prussia, Pa.

The meeting will be open to the public for observation only.

The apparent violation concerns the distribution of more than 16,000 wristwatches containing small amounts of tritium, a radioactive material, without an NRC license. The watches pose no hazard to the public or their owners. Small amounts of tritium are safely used in many timepieces, but the NRC requires distributors to obtain a license from the agency to use the material.

A decision by the NRC to hold a predecisional 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 with an opportunity to point out any errors that may have been made in NRC inspection reports; and to enable the licensee to outline its proposed corrective actions.

No decisions on the apparent violation will be made at this conference. Those decisions will be made by senior NRC officials at a later time.

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