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I-97-154 December 5, 1997  
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NRC, UTILITY TO DISCUSS APPARENT VIOLATIONS AT BEAVER VALLEY

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff and Duquense Light Company (DLC) officials will meet on Wednesday, December 10, to discuss apparent violations of agency requirements at the firm's Beaver Valley nuclear power plant. The violations at the facility, located in Shippingport, Pa., involve equipment maintenance problems.

Scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. at the NRC Region 1 office in King of Prussia, Pa., the predecisional enforcement conference will be open to the public for observation. The session will be held in the Public Meeting Room.

NRC inspectors, during a review conducted at the plant from August 31 to October 4, found that corrective actions to address repeated gas binding of high head safety injection pumps from 1993 to the present were not effective. The high head safety injection system is one of several systems that would be used to mitigate the effects of a loss-of-coolant accident.

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 its proposed corrective action.

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

Also, on Thursday, December 11, NRC staff and Duquense Light officials will hold a management meeting to discuss the status of the performance improvement program at Beaver Valley. That meeting will get under way at 10:30 a.m. in the Public Meeting Room at the NRC Region 1 office.

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