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NRC Schedules Enforcement Conference with Global Nuclear Fuel for Oct. 1

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled a pre-decisional enforcement conference with officials of Global Nuclear Fuel of Wilmington, N.C., for Wednesday, Oct. 1, to discuss apparent violations of NRC requirements related to the company's failure to maintain items relied on for safety.

The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. at the NRC Region II office in Atlanta, located at 245 Peachtree Center Ave. The meeting will be open to the public and NRC officials will be available after the meeting to answer any questions. Anyone interested in attending the meeting or participating by telephone should contact either the NRC's Manuel Crespo at 404-997-4733 or manuel.crespo@nrc.gov or Marvin Sykes at 404-997-4629 or marvin.sykes@nrc.gov.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss apparent violations associated with the failure to ensure that equipment designed to prevent a large amount of steam from entering a container in the facility's dry conversion process recycle operation remained available and reliable. In March, Global officials notified the NRC that the company had discovered two items credited with limiting steam from intruding into the container could not perform their intended functions. The company immediately shut down the affected equipment. Although no actual event occurred, the lack of the two safety items could have increased the likelihood of a high consequence event that could have affected workers in the immediate area.

No decision on enforcement action will be made at the Oct. 1 meeting. NRC officials will review information presented by Global Nuclear Fuel at the meeting and reach a decision on appropriate regulatory action at a later date.