

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Public Affairs
Region II
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No: 96-85

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**NRC STAFF HOLDS PREDECISIONAL ENFORCEMENT CONFERENCE
TO DISCUSS BRUNSWICK EQUIPMENT CONCERNS WITH CP&L**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled a predecisional enforcement conference with Carolina Power & Light Company on October 21 to discuss apparent violations at the Brunswick nuclear power plant related to what agency officials describe as a failure to maintain an environmental qualification program for safety related electrical equipment and failure to take prompt and effective corrective actions to fix nonconformances identified in the program since 1991.

The conference will be held in Atlanta from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon in the NRC's regional office, located at 101 Marietta Street, N.W., Suite 2900. The meeting is open to the public and the press, and NRC officials will be available at its conclusion to answer questions from interested observers.

The conference is open to public observation under an NRC policy initiated in 1992 which opens every fourth such meeting to public scrutiny.

NRC officials said the decision to hold an enforcement conference does not mean that a determination has been made 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; to provide the licensee an opportunity to point out any errors that may have been made in the NRC inspection report; and to enable the company to outline its proposed corrective actions.

No decision on the apparent violation or any contemplated enforcement action, such as a civil penalty, will be made at this conference. Those decisions will be made by senior NRC officials at a later time.

Recorded information on upcoming open enforcement conferences is also available by calling 1-800-952-9674.

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