

UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
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No: II-97-10

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NRC STAFF TO HOLD PREDECISIONAL ENFORCEMENT CONFERENCE  
TO DISCUSS CRYSTAL RIVER ENGINEERING CONCERNS WITH  
FLORIDA POWER CORPORATION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled a predecisional enforcement conference with Florida Power Corporation on January 24 to discuss apparent violations at the Crystal River nuclear power plant related to the company's engineering program.

The NRC staff is considering 11 apparent violations for escalated enforcement action. They were identified in two separate inspection reports. In a letter sent to FPC with the second inspection report, Johns Jaudon, director of the NRC Region II Division of Reactor Safety, said the apparent violations "indicate that a broad spectrum of problems existed affecting multiple areas of your Engineering program." The areas include NRC-required evaluations of certain equipment or system changes within the plant, design control, corrective action implementation and procedures.

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

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 violations 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 enforcement conferences is also available by calling 1-800-952-9674.

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