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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NRC STAFF TO DISCUSS APPARENT VIOLATIONS AT HADDAM NECK  
AND MILLSTONE

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled two predecisional enforcement conferences next week to discuss apparent violations of NRC requirements at the Haddam Neck and Millstone plants in Connecticut.

The first enforcement conference, concerning Haddam Neck, will be held December 4 with officials of Connecticut Yankee Nuclear Power Company. The second conference will be held the following day with officials of Northeast Utilities to discuss apparent violations at the Millstone Station.

Both enforcement conferences, which are open to the public for observation only, will begin at 9 a.m. each day in the Leland F. Sillin Training Center at the Millstone site.

The apparent violations at Haddam Neck were identified during several NRC regular and special inspections, starting last November. The apparent violations include errors in design basis documents, errors introduced by design changes, inadequate corrective actions, errors in evaluations required by NRC regulations, and failure to update the Final Safety Analysis Report.

Violations were also found concerning the operability of equipment, including the containment air recirculation fans and the residual heat removal system. Also to be discussed are emergency preparedness weaknesses, and findings of an Augmented Inspection Team which reviewed four events which occurred over the Labor Day weekend.

The apparent violations at Millstone were found during numerous NRC inspections since October 1995. Those violations include failures to: make changes properly to the facility, establish appropriate procedures, test equipment properly, take prompt and effective corrective actions, process nonconforming materials properly, maintain records, provide proper event reports, provide accurate and complete information, update the Final Safety Analysis Report, and implement design control measures properly.

The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that the NRC has determined 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 licensee to outline its proposed corrective actions. No decision on the apparent violations will be made at this conference. Those decisions will be made by senior NRC officials at a later time.

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