No. IV-00-07   March 28, 2000
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NRC, KERR ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
TO DISCUSS APPARENT VIOLATIONS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold a predecisional enforcement conference on Friday with officials of the Robert S. Kerr Environmental Research Center in Ada, Oklahoma, to discuss five apparent violations of NRC requirements.

The conference will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the NRC Region IV office in Arlington, Texas. The meeting will be open to public observation; NRC officials will be available afterward for questions.

The first two apparent violations involve poor security and material control practices. Specifically, inspectors found that control of and access to two sealed sources was not maintained as required, and improper storage of a source resulted in a radiation dose rate in an unrestricted area that exceeded the applicable limit.

The other three apparent violations involve poor radioactive material use and possession practices. The Center was found to have sealed sources that had been removed from portable gauges, which is not permitted by its NRC license. No one at the Center was exposed to radiation in excess of federal limits as a result of these practices.

The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that NRC has made a determination that violations did occur or that enforcement action will be taken. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the apparent violations, their causes and safety significance, and to provide Kerr Research Center officials with an opportunity to point out any errors that may have been made in the NRC inspection report and present corrective actions that have been taken or planned.

No decision on the apparent violations or any contemplated enforcement action will be made at this conference. Those decisions will be made by senior NRC officials at a later date.

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