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I-99-48

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April 20, 1999

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NRC, GPU NUCLEAR TO DISCUSS APPARENT VIOLATION AT TMI 1

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff and representatives of GPU Nuclear Inc. will meet on Friday, April 23, in Rockville, Md., to discuss an apparent violation of agency requirements at the Three Mile Island 1 nuclear power plant. GPU Nuclear operates the facility, located in Middletown, Pa.

The apparent violation involves changes to requirements for the plant's emergency feedwater system without first conducting a safety evaluation. The emergency feedwater system would be used to help cool the reactor in the event of a loss-of-coolant accident. Specifically, GPU Nuclear reduced the emergency feedwater system's minimum required flow rate to the plant's steam generators. The steam generators are heat exchanges that take heat from the radioactive water that circulates through the reactor and use it to heat non-radioactive water to drive the turbines and generate electricity.

Scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. in Room 3-B-4 at the NRC's One White Flint North headquarters building, the predecisional enforcement conference will be open to the public. NRC's headquarters is located at 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Md.

The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that the NRC has determined 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 with 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 action.

No decision on the apparent violations will be made at this conference. That decision will be made by NRC officials at a later time.

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