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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NRC REGION I MONITORS HURRICANE FLOYD

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff in King of Prussia, Pa, is monitoring storm preparations at several nuclear plants in the mid-Atlantic region as Hurricane Floyd makes its way up the Atlantic coast.

NRC Region I has staffed its Incident Response Center and currently is assessing whether precautions need to be taken. The Resident Inspectors are monitoring activities from the control rooms. Provisions are being made for round-the-clock coverage, should that be necessary.

A hurricane warning has been issued for the Oyster Creek site in Lacey Township, N.J. Tropical storm warnings are in effect for the Salem/Hope Creek (Hancocks Bridge, N.J.) and Calvert Cliffs (Lusby, Md.) sites. Plants farther north and farther inland are also tracking the storm and preparing for possible weather-related problems.

The plants have been following their procedures in response to the storm conditions, including securing loose equipment and making sure adequate supplies and personnel are available. In general plants' safety procedures specify that the plants begin to shutdown should winds or other conditions reach pre-established levels. At this point, it's not expected that those conditions will be reached at any plant.

The safe operation of nuclear plants during any event, including hurricanes, remains the responsibility of the company licensed to operate the plant. The NRC's role is to monitor events for compliance with safety procedures and advise the operator if necessary.

The NRC has been coordinating with the affected states and with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

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