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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Tuesday, May 7, 1996)

NRC LICENSING BOARD SETS HEARING ON GEORGIA TECH RESEARCH REACTOR

An NRC Atomic Safety and Licensing Board has scheduled a hearing May 20 in Atlanta, Georgia, concerning a request to renew an operating license for the Georgia Tech research reactor.

Georgia Tech has requested renewal of the operating license for an additional 20 years. The Licensing Board has granted a request from Georgians Against Nuclear Energy (GANE) to intervene and will consider its allegation that management problems at Georgia Tech render the facility unsafe.

The hearing, which is open to the public, will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) hearing room, Room 1010, 1718 Peachtree Street NW. After the conclusion of preliminary matters, oral limited appearance statements by members of the public will be accepted from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. For those who cannot attend the opening session, oral limited appearance statements will be heard May 22 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Student Center Theatre at Georgia Tech.

The oral statements normally will be limited to five minutes. They do not constitute testimony or evidence but may assist the Licensing Board in defining the scope of issues in the proceeding. Requests to make oral statements should be submitted to the Office of the Secretary, Docketing and Service Branch, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555. A copy of each request should also be sent to the Chairman of the Georgia Tech Licensing Board, Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555.

To the extent necessary, the hearing could continue on May 21-24, May 29-31 and June 24-28 at the FTC hearing room. The sessions on May 29 and June 24 would start at 9:30 a.m. The sessions on May 21-24, May 30-31 and June 25-28 would begin at 9:00 a.m.

Representatives of Georgia Tech, GANE and the NRC staff will participate in the hearing.

Members of the Licensing Board are Charles Bechhoefer, chairman, Dr. Jerry R. Kline and Dr. Peter S. Lam.