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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Monday, July 14, 1997)

**NRC STAFF TO HOLD CONFERENCE WITH CENTERS
FOR DISEASE CONTROL TO DISCUSS APPARENT VIOLATIONS**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold a predecisional enforcement conference with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Thursday, July 17, to discuss four apparent violations of NRC regulations involving the use of radioactive materials under an NRC license at the CDC facility in Atlanta.

The apparent violations include the failure to secure licensed radioactive material from unauthorized use and removal, the failure to perform periodic inventories of licensed material, repeated failures to ensure that radiation survey meters were calibrated annually and the failure to remove unnecessary signs from previously restricted areas. In a letter to CDC on June 25, 1997, the NRC staff expressed concern about the violations "since they seem to indicate a lack of management oversight and failure to adhere to license conditions."

The meeting will be held in the NRC Atlanta office, located at 61 Forsyth Street, Room 24T20, at 2:00 p.m. It will be open to observation by the public.

NRC officials said the decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that a determination has been made that a violation has occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. 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 NRC inspection reports; and to enable the company to outline its proposed corrective actions.

No decision on the apparent violations or any contemplated enforcement action, such as a civil penalty, will be made at the conference. Those decisions will be made by NRC officials at a later time.

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