

**United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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NRC, GPU NUCLEAR TO DISCUSS APPARENT VIOLATION AT OYSTER CREEK

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff and representatives of GPU Nuclear Inc. will meet on Monday, March 23, to discuss an apparent violation of agency requirements at the Oyster Creek nuclear power plant. GPU owns and operates the facility, located in Lacey Township, N.J.

Scheduled to begin at 12:30 p.m. in the Public Meeting Room at the NRC Region 1 Office in King of Prussia, Pa., the predecisional enforcement conference will be open to the public for observation.

The apparent violation involves a failure by plant staff to perform adequate safety determinations before making modifications. Specifically, Oyster Creek employees responded promptly in January to a leaking containment spray heat exchanger relief valve, but they did not perform a thorough safety review before making repairs. (Containment spray would be used to cool the inside of the reactor containment building following a loss-of-coolant accident.)

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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