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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NRC STAFF TO MEET WITH PENNSYLVANIA COMPANY
TO DISCUSS APPARENT VIOLATIONS OF REQUIREMENTS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with officials of Apgee Corporation and Berthold Systems, Inc, of Aliquippa, Pa., on Thursday, April 24, to discuss apparent violations of NRC requirements. The pre-decisional enforcement conference will be held at 2 p.m. in the NRC's Region I office, 475 Allendale Road, in King of Prussia, Pa.

Apgee is authorized to possess, inspect and transfer radioactive material in the form of sealed sources and fixed gauges containing these sources. Apgee receives the material from Germany, and then transfers the sealed sources and gauges to Berthold Systems, which distributes them to customers. Both companies occupy the same premises in Aliquippa.

During an NRC inspection at the Aliquippa facility June 11-13 of last year, inspectors found that gauges were distributed to customers that were not manufactured and distributed in accordance with required sealed source and device certificates of registration. They also found that Apgee did not conduct quarterly audits to ensure that the registration certificate requirements were followed.

The decision to hold a pre-decisional enforcement conference does not mean that the NRC has determined that 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 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 actions. No decision on the apparent violations will be made at this conference. Those decisions will be made by NRC officials at a later time.

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