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I-97-103

August 11, 1997

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NRC, PSE&G TO DISCUSS APPARENT VIOLATIONS AT HOPE CREEK

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with officials of Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G) of New Jersey on Tuesday, August 12, to discuss an apparent violation of NRC requirements at the Hope Creek Generating Station in Hancocks Bridge, NJ. The predecisional enforcement conference, which is open to the public for observation, will be held in the NRC's Region I office, 475 Allendale Road, in King of Prussia, Pa., beginning at 10 a.m.

NRC inspectors found the apparent violation during a routine NRC inspection at Hope Creek in February and March. NRC requirements allow a licensee to make changes to a facility without Commission approval, unless the proposed changes involve an unreviewed safety question. At Hope Creek, PSE&G changed the design of the low pressure safety injection system, creating the possibility of an accident of a different type than evaluated in the final safety analysis report.

The decision to hold a predecisional 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 senior NRC officials at a later time.

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