

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Public Affairs

Washington, DC 20555
Phone 301-415-8200 Fax 301-415-2234
Internet: opa@nrc.gov

No. 98-46

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Thursday, April 2, 1998)

***NRC AND UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN TO DISCUSS APPARENT VIOLATIONS
AT THE FORD NUCLEAR REACTOR***

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff and representatives of the University of Michigan will meet April 22, to discuss apparent violations of agency reporting requirements at the Ford Nuclear Reactor at the University of Michigan, in Ann Arbor.

Scheduled to begin at 1:00 p.m. in Room O1-F5 of One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, the predecisional enforcement conference will be open to the public for observation.

Two apparent violations were identified during an inspection conducted by NRC staff February 23-27. One was a failure by operators to perform an adequate review before replacing a cooling pump. The other was the operators' failure to submit the required report to NRC when it was discovered that the technical specifications of the reactor's license needed to be amended after the pump replacement. The university uses the Ford reactor for teaching programs, and for various research and irradiation services.

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.

##