



NRC NEWS

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC TO DISCUSS PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FOR RIVER BEND NUCLEAR PLANT

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with representatives of Entergy Operations, Inc. on May 19 to discuss the results of the agency's annual assessment of safety performance at the River Bend nuclear plant. The facility is located in St. Francisville, La.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church, Jackson Hall, 11621 Ferdinand Street, St. Francisville. Before the session is adjourned, NRC staff will be available to answer questions from the public on the plant's safety performance, as well as the agency's role in ensuring safe operation of the facility.

"Each year the NRC staff evaluates the performance of each of the nation's commercial nuclear plants," said Region IV Administrator Bruce S. Mallet. "This meeting gives us a chance to discuss our assessment with the company, local officials and residents near the plant. We want to make this information available to the public and answer any questions people may have about the plant."

Overall, River Bend operated safely during 2004 and will receive baseline inspections during 2005. Baseline inspections are performed by the NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant and by inspection specialists from the Region IV office and the agency's headquarters in Rockville, Md.

However, because the number of unplanned shutdowns at the plant exceeded a performance threshold, NRC plans to conduct a supplemental inspection during 2005 in order to verify that the company has identified the root cause of the problem and taken actions to prevent recurrence.

A letter sent from the NRC Region IV office in Arlington, Texas, to plant officials will serve as the basis for the meeting. It is available on the NRC web site at:
http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/rbs_2004q4.pdf .

Current information for River Bend is available on the NRC web site at:
http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/RBS1/rbs1_chart.html .

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