



NRC NEWS

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NRC SCHEDULES OPEN HOUSE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ON 2008 PERFORMANCE OF HATCH NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled an open house for Thursday, April 2, and will be available to discuss and answer questions about the agency's assessment of safety performance during 2008 at the Hatch nuclear power plant. The plant, operated by Southern Nuclear Operating Co., is located about 11 miles north of Baxley and about 20 miles south of Vidalia in southern Georgia.

The open house is informal and scheduled to run from 12-2 p.m. in the Vidalia Toombs County Library, 610 Jackson Street in Vidalia.

NRC staff will be available to answer questions on the safety performance of the Hatch plant, as well as the NRC role in ensuring safe plant operation.

"Throughout the year, we inspect and review the performance of the Hatch plant and all commercial nuclear plants," NRC Region II Administrator Luis Reyes said. "We issue several inspection reports during the year and an overall annual assessment. This open house allows us to discuss that assessment with local officials and people near the plant, and answer any questions they may have."

A letter sent from the NRC Region II office to plant officials addresses the performance of the plant during 2008 and will serve as the basis for the meeting discussion. It is available on the NRC web site at: www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/hat_2008q4.pdf.

The NRC found that Hatch's 2008 performance met all NRC safety objectives. This year, the NRC plans to conduct the very detailed inspections required at those plants operating well. In addition, the agency will complete some generic inspections, such as ground water protection and operator licensing exams, at the Hatch plant in 2009.

Performance at Hatch Unit 1 for all of 2008 was at a level that resulted in no additional NRC oversight. Unit 2's performance during all four quarters of 2008 was within the range leading to more NRC oversight, including a supplemental inspection early last year. The NRC

staff is also reviewing an emergency diesel generator issue and the results of that review may change the current assessment.

Current performance information for Hatch Unit 1 is available on the NRC web site at: www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/HAT1/hat1_chart.html. Current performance information for Unit 2 is at: www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/HAT2/hat2_chart.html.

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