



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs, Region II
Marquis One Tower
245 Peachtree Center Ave., NE Suite 1200
Atlanta, GA 30303-1257
Web Site: www.nrc.gov

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CONTACT: Roger Hannah (404) 562-4417
Joey Ledford (404) 562-4416

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E-mail: OPA2@nrc.gov

NRC SCHEDULES MEETING TO DISCUSS 2009 PERFORMANCE OF ROBINSON NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials have scheduled a meeting on Wednesday, April 21 to provide information on the agency's annual assessment of safety performance for the Robinson nuclear power plant during 2009.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. with a brief presentation in the Hartsville Public Library at 147 West College Avenue in Hartsville, S.C. Agency officials will discuss the plant's performance last year as well as NRC oversight and inspection. The presentation will be followed by a question and answer session.

The Robinson plant, which has one pressurized-water reactor, is located near Hartsville, S.C., about 26 miles northwest of Florence. It is owned and operated by Progress Energy.

Overall, the NRC staff concluded that the Robinson plant operated safely in 2009, and there were no inspection findings or performance indicators that would cause the NRC to increase its level of oversight and inspection. Based on the plant's performance, the NRC staff plans to continue the detailed routine or baseline inspections all nuclear power plants receive.

A recent fire at the Robinson plant led to an NRC special inspection, which is still underway. The results of that inspection will be announced when it is completed.

"Every year, the NRC evaluates the safety performance of nuclear plants in a systematic and detailed way. These reviews allow us to respond to ongoing issues, if needed, and to plan our future inspections," NRC Region II Administrator Luis Reyes said. "This meeting gives local officials and citizens an opportunity to learn more about our oversight and is consistent with our commitment to openness and transparency."

The NRC uses color-coded inspection findings and performance indicators to assess plant performance. The colors start with "green," which has very low safety significance, to "white,"

“yellow” or “red,” based on the significance of the issues. Inspection findings and performance indicators are updated on the NRC’s web site (www.nrc.gov) each quarter.

The annual assessment letter for the Robinson plant is available on the NRC web site at www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/rob_2009q4.pdf.

Routine inspections are carried out by the NRC resident inspectors assigned to the plant and by inspection specialists from the Region II office in Atlanta. Among the areas at the Robinson plant to be inspected this year by NRC specialists are groundwater protection, dissimilar metal welds and operator licensing exams.

Current performance information for Robinson is available on the NRC web site at www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/ROB2/rob2_chart.html.

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