



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC SCHEDULES MEETING TO DISCUSS INSPECTION RESULTS FOR CRYSTAL RIVER NUCLEAR PLANT CONTAINMENT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled a meeting in Crystal River, Fla., to discuss the results of an NRC special inspection looking into the circumstances surrounding a gap discovered in the concrete of the containment building at the Crystal River nuclear power plant last fall. The Crystal River plant is operated by Progress Energy on the west coast of Florida about 80 miles north of Tampa.

The meeting, scheduled for 10 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 2 in Room 150 of the Crystal River nuclear plant training center, 8200 West Venable Street in Crystal River, will be open to members of the public and the news media. NRC team members will also be available to answer questions after the results are presented.

The NRC inspection team has continued its work since October, conducting multiple inspections and reviews of the company's analyses and other information. The Crystal River plant staff first discovered the containment separation during a planned refueling outage which was also used to replace the steam generators inside containment. To move the large steam generators inside the containment building, workers removed concrete to create the necessary opening, and found a gap in the concrete in that area. The Crystal River containment is about 42 inches thick and contains both horizontal and vertical tensioned steel tendons. The separation was found about 9 inches from the outer surface of the concrete.

The plant will not restart until the NRC is satisfied that the analyses and repairs to the containment building provide the required safety margin. The agency will schedule another public meeting in the Crystal River area prior to the restart of the plant.

The NRC will also issue a written report of the inspection team's review in the next several weeks and that report will be available on the NRC's web site at www.nrc.gov.

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