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INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY SAFETY REVIEW
TEAM TO VISIT GRAND GULF NUCLEAR PLANT

A nuclear safety team from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, Austria, at the invitation of the United States, will visit the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station in Mississippi from August 3-21.

The visit of an IAEA Operational Safety Review Team (OSART) will be the third to a U.S. nuclear plant. OSART visits also have been made to the Calvert Cliffs nuclear power plant in Maryland, in August 1987, and to the Byron nuclear power plant in Illinois, in May 1989.

The 12-member team will include nuclear experts from the IAEA staff and from Canada, France, the United Kingdom, Spain, South Africa, Japan, Finland, Sweden and Germany. In addition, three observers from the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Mexico and Bulgaria will accompany the team.

This is not a regulatory type inspection by the team, rather an assessment of safety practices. The visit will provide team members with an opportunity to exchange safety ideas and experience with their counterparts at the Grand Gulf plant. The review by the team will cover eight operating areas, including management; training and qualification of control room staff, maintenance and radiation protection personnel; operating performance and procedures; maintenance programs; technical support programs; radiation protection; plant chemistry; and emergency planning and preparedness.

The OSART team will subsequently send a report to the U.S. government identifying good practices as well as suggesting safety improvements. The report will be provided to the operator of Grand Gulf, Entergy Operations, Inc., and released for public information.

