

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region II
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FOR IMMEDIATE

RELEASE

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**NRC STAFF TO MEET WITH DUKE POWER OFFICIALS
TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR OCONEE RESTART**

Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials will meet with Duke Power Company managers on Friday, January 10, at the Oconee nuclear power plant near Seneca, South Carolina, to discuss the status of the company's readiness to restart the plant's three reactors, shut down by the company last year following a Unit 2 steam line rupture on September 24.

Seven workers were injured when an 18-inch steam line ruptured in the non-nuclear area of the Unit 2 reactor while maintenance personnel were working on valves. They were transported to area hospitals where four were held for treatment of extensive injuries.

The NRC sent a special Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) to the plant and held a public meeting last October 8 to discuss findings associated with the event. Agency officials have not made a decision as to whether or not escalated enforcement action will be taken.

Friday's meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. in Room 316 of the Oconee office building. It is open to observation by members of the public and the press, and NRC officials will be available at its conclusion to answer questions from interested observers.

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