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**McGUIRE NUCLEAR PLANT RATED "SUPERIOR" IN TWO AREAS,
"GOOD" IN TWO OTHER AREAS OF NRC ASSESSMENT REPORT**

The McGuire nuclear power plant received performance ratings of "superior" in two areas and "good" in two areas of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's latest systematic assessment of licensee performance (SALP) of the facility.

The SALP report was sent April 18 to Duke Power Company, which operates the facility near Huntersville, North Carolina. It evaluates the plant's performance from August 13, 1995 through March 8 of this year.

NRC and Duke officials will discuss the report during a meeting set for 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, May 7, at the McGuire site. The meeting will be open for public observation. NRC officials will be available after the meeting to speak with reporters, state and local officials, and members of the public.

The NRC SALP process rates licensees in four functional areas - plant operations, maintenance, engineering, and plant support - and assigns ratings of Category 1, 2 or 3 depending on whether their performance in those areas was superior, good or adequate.

The report on McGuire gives the plant a Category 1 rating in plant operations and plant support indicating "superior" performance, and a Category 2 rating in maintenance and engineering, indicating "good" performance. The ratings in the plant's previous SALP report, issued in September 1995, were Category 1's in engineering and plant support and Category 2's in plant operations and maintenance.

In his cover letter to the report, NRC Regional Administrator Luis Reyes said that in operations "superior performance was characterized by good management oversight and continued emphasis on operations ownership."

In the maintenance area, Reyes wrote that performance was good with strong management support and involvement. He noted a strong improving trend during the latter part of the assessment period.

Reyes said engineering performance was good but equipment reliability issues detracted from a higher rating.

In the plant support area, Reyes highlighted "a superior level of safety performance in radiological controls and emergency planning."

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EDITORS: A copy of the full SALP report is available from this office.

SALP reports are also available on the NRC's Internet web site (<http://www.nrc.gov/OPA>) and by e-mail subscription. To receive SALP reports by e-mail as they are issued, send an e-mail to listproc@nrc.gov with the following message:
subscribe salp yourfirstname yourlastname.