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NRC SCHEDULES DESIGN INSPECTION EXIT MEETING AT FARLEY NUCLEAR
PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled a public exit meeting at Southern Nuclear Operating Company's Farley nuclear power plant, near Dothan, Alabama, to discuss the results of a special NRC design inspection at the plant. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 26 at 1:00 p.m. (CST) in the plant Training Center.

The design inspection began on January 27 of this year and concluded on March 14.

Design inspections focus on reviews of a plant's original design and configuration and the licensee's conformance with the plant's safety analysis report. Each inspection team is made up of engineers from the NRC and design specialists from either Stone & Webster or Sargent & Lundy, architect\engineering firms with which NRC has contracted.

The NRC staff planned a number of these inspections after recent findings that licensees at the Millstone nuclear power plant in Connecticut, and at other facilities, routinely performed full-core offloads during refueling outages without performing the necessary safety evaluation. It also was discovered that other facilities' actual as-built configuration, or their operations, were inconsistent with the design basis information described in their licenses.

NRC officials said special care is being taken to avoid having inspections performed by representatives of architect\engineering firms which originally designed a power plant.

Interested members of the public and news media representatives are welcome to attend the exit meeting where team members will review their findings to the licensee. NRC representatives will be available at the meeting's conclusion to

answer questions from interested observers.

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