



NRC NEWS

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NRC TO MEET WITH UNION ELECTRIC CO. TO DISCUSS PERFORMANCE OF CALLAWAY NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with representatives of the Union Electric Company on Tuesday, April 1, to discuss the results of the agency's annual assessment of safety performance at the Callaway Nuclear Plant. The facility is located near Fulton, Missouri.

The meeting, which will be open to the public for observation, is scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Capitol Plaza Hotel & Convention Center, 415 West McCarty Street, Jefferson City, Mo.

Before the session is adjourned, NRC staff will be available to answer questions from the public on the safety performance of the plant, as well as the role of the NRC in ensuring safe plant operation.

The performance period to be discussed is January 1 to December 31, 2002. In addition, NRC staff will provide an overview of how the agency's Reactor Oversight Process works.

A letter sent from the NRC Region IV Office to representatives of the Union Electric Co. addresses the performance of the plant during the period and will serve as the basis for the meeting discussion. It is available on the NRC web site at:

http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/call_2002q4.pdf

"Overall, Callaway Plant operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and met all cornerstone objectives with moderate degradation in safety performance," the letter states. However, during the first quarter of 2002, the licensee failed to promptly identify and correct a problem - the presence of foreign material in a large water storage tank. This rendered inoperable the plant's auxiliary feedwater system, which provides water to the plant's steam generators under some conditions.

Additionally, Callaway has had difficulties with problem identification and resolution. The NRC plans to conduct an additional inspection of these areas in June, to determine whether improvements have been made.

In addition, the letter notes: "As you are aware, since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the NRC has issued several Orders and threat advisories to enhance security capabilities and improve guard force readiness. We have conducted inspections to review your implementation of

these requirements and have monitored your actions in response to changing threat advisories. For calendar year 2003, we plan to continue these inspections and conduct portions of the security baseline inspection program, as well as perform additional inspections to evaluate your compliance with new requirements that may be ordered.”

Current performance information for Callaway is available on the NRC web site at:
http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/CALL/call_chart.html

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