



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC TO MEET WITH OFFICIALS FROM KEWAUNEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION TO DISCUSS SAFETY PERFORMANCE

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with officials from the Kewaunee Nuclear Power Station on Wednesday, April 2, to discuss the results of NRC's annual assessment of the plant's safety performance. The plant, managed by Nuclear Management Company, is located in Kewaunee, Wisconsin.

The meeting will be held at 5 p.m. at the Carlton Town Hall, N1296 Town Hall Road, in Kewaunee. The public is invited to observe the meeting, and NRC officials will be available before the conclusion of the meeting for questions and comments from the public.

A letter from the NRC to the Kewaunee Nuclear Power Station addresses plant safety performance during the previous year and forms the basis for the meeting discussions. The letter is available from Region III Public Affairs Office and on the NRC web site at:
<http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/listofasmrpt.html>

According to the letter, overall, Kewaunee operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety. The letter states that NRC inspectors identified one issue of low to moderate safety significance involving the lack of a fixed fire protection system in an area containing important safety equipment. If the equipment were to be damaged by fire, the damage could increase the complexity of actions needed to safely shut down the reactor. The utility has taken compensatory measures – increased surveillance in the affected area – and plans to install a fixed fire protection system. The inspection report is on the NRC web site at:
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html>

The letter states that in addition to baseline inspections, the NRC will conduct a supplemental inspection to make sure the licensee has properly addressed all the issues associated with the fire protection finding.

In addition, the letter notes: "As you are aware, since the terrorist attacks of 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 Kewanee is available on the NRC web site at:
http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/kewa_2002q4.pdf

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