



NRC NEWS

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NRC TO MEET WITH U. S. ENRICHMENT CORP. TO DISCUSS PADUCAH GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANT PERFORMANCE

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with U. S. Enrichment Corp. (USEC) officials on Wednesday, April 2, to discuss the results of the agency's assessment of performance at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant. The plant is located in Paducah, Kentucky.

The meeting will be held at 1 p.m. (EDT) at Paducah Information Age Park, 2000 McCracken Blvd., in Paducah. The public is invited to observe the meeting and will have an opportunity to make comments and ask questions of the NRC staff before the meeting is adjourned.

This performance review, which covers the period of January 1, 2001, through December 31, 2002, focused on five major areas: safety operations, safeguards, radiological controls, facility support and special topics. The NRC staff concluded that the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant staff performed well in the areas of radiological controls and special topics and no areas for improvement were identified. The staff performance in the areas of safety operations and facility support was evaluated as adequate but needing improvement in the quality of procedures, adherence to procedures, and operator performance. Within the safeguards area, the control of classified matter was identified as an area needing improvement. The NRC had identified two of these areas -- the need for improvement in the quality of procedures and adherence to procedures -- during the previous review period.

The meeting will focus on details of NRC's review, USEC's evaluation of the facility's performance and the company's plans to address the NRC's concerns.

The performance review is available from the NRC's Region III Office of Public Affairs, the NRC Public Document Room at 1-800-397-4209 and in the agency's ADAMS electronic reading room at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html>. To locate the document, enter the accession number ML030780489.

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