



# ***NRC NEWS***

**UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, REGION II**

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## **NRC TO MEET WITH DUKE ENERGY OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS SAFETY PERFORMANCE AT OCONEE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with Duke Energy officials on Thursday, April 3, to discuss the results of NRC's annual assessment of safety performance at the Oconee nuclear power plant near Seneca, South Carolina.

The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Shaver Complex (Recreation Center), 698 West South 4<sup>th</sup> Street, in Seneca. The public is invited to observe the meeting, and NRC officials will be available before the conclusion of the meeting to answer any questions.

A letter from the NRC to Duke Energy addresses plant safety performance during the previous year and forms the basis for the meeting discussions. The letter states that, overall, Oconee operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety. The letter, which is available from Region II Public Affairs and on the NRC web site at [www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/oco\\_2002q4.pdf](http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/oco_2002q4.pdf), says Oconee Unit 2 maintained performance during the period at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight. A White (low to moderate safety significance) inspection finding for Unit 2 related to inadequate installation of some electrical connectors will require a supplemental NRC inspection. Oconee Unit 1 was the subject of a supplemental inspection in late 2002. In addition, several issues at the Oconee plant are still under NRC staff review and may warrant additional inspections.

NRC activities planned at Oconee include the Unit 2 supplemental inspection, special inspections of planned reactor vessel head and steam generator replacements, a review of the implementation of security measures required by the NRC, operator licensing examinations, routine inspections of the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation and an additional problem identification and resolution inspection.

Current performance indicators for the three units at the Oconee plant are available at [www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/OCO1/oco1\\_chart.html](http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/OCO1/oco1_chart.html), [www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/OCO2/oco2\\_chart.html](http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/OCO2/oco2_chart.html) and [www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/OCO3/oco3\\_chart.html](http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/OCO3/oco3_chart.html).

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