



NRC NEWS

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OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, REGION II

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NRC TO PROVIDE PRELIMINARY INSPECTION RESULTS FOR HONEYWELL'S ILLINOIS FUEL PLANT AT PUBLIC MEETING ON JANUARY 6

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with officials of Honeywell International on January 6 to discuss the preliminary results of an inspection the agency conducted following a December 22 chemical release (uranium hexafluoride) at the company's uranium processing plant near Metropolis, Illinois.

The meeting, which will be open to public observation, will begin at 6:00 p.m. (CST) and be held in the Second Floor Large Courtroom at the Massac County Courthouse at 1 Superman Square in Metropolis. The public is invited to observe and NRC staff members will be available to answer questions from members of the public before the close of the meeting.

The NRC decided to send an Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) to the Honeywell facility to review the December 22 event and assess the plant operators' performance, the plant equipment involved, company procedures and the company's overall response including its own investigation and any corrective actions.

The Honeywell plant's uranium hexafluoride production remains shut down and an NRC Confirmatory Action Letter issued to the company states that it will discuss with the NRC both the results of its own investigation and proposed corrective actions prior to restarting the processes involved in the incident.

The written report of the inspection team's findings will be issued within 30 days of the meetings and will be publicly available from the Region II Office of Public Affairs and on the NRC's web site at www.nrc.gov. Assistance in using the NRC's web reading room is available by calling the NRC Public Document Room at 800-397-4209.

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