



NRC NEWS

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC TO HOLD REGULATORY CONFERENCE WITH ENTERGY OPERATIONS ON WATERFORD NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold a regulatory conference with officials of Entergy Operations, operator of the Waterford 3 nuclear power plant, on March 8.

Conferees will discuss the significance of an inspection finding regarding the plant's emergency diesel generators. Waterford 3 is located about 20 miles west of New Orleans, Louisiana.

The meeting, which is open to public observation, will begin at 1:00 p.m. in NRC Region IV offices in Arlington, Texas. The public will have the opportunity to observe and ask questions of the NRC staff before the meeting is adjourned.

The NRC staff will discuss with Entergy officials the inspection finding and an associated apparent violation of NRC requirements identified in an inspection report issued on February 2. The apparent violation involves the licensee's apparent failure to establish appropriate procedures and follow them during the installation of a fuel line for an emergency diesel generator during May 2003.

The NRC evaluates regulatory performance at commercial nuclear power plants with a color coded process which classifies regulatory findings as either green, white, yellow or red, in increasing order of safety significance. The NRC's preliminary evaluation determined that the safety significance of the problem was "greater than green," meaning that the violation involved more than very low safety significance.

No decision on the final significance, the apparent violation or any contemplated enforcement action will be made during the conference. Those decisions will be made by NRC officials at a later time.

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