



NRC NEWS

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

61 Forsyth Street SW, Atlanta GA 30303

Web Site: www.nrc.gov

No. II-04-010

March 12, 2004

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NRC TO MEET WITH FPL OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS SAFETY PERFORMANCE AT ST. LUCIE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with Florida Power & Light officials on Monday, March 22, to discuss the results of NRC's annual assessment of safety performance at the St. Lucie nuclear power plant on Hutchinson Island off the east coast of Florida.

The meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. in the Pelican Room of the Courtyard by Marriott, 10978 S. Ocean Drive, in Jensen Beach, Florida. 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 Florida Power & Light addresses plant safety performance during the previous year and forms the basis for the meeting discussions. The letter states that, overall, St. Lucie operated safely but that plant performance was at a level requiring additional NRC inspection beyond normal baseline activities due to four unplanned scrams (unplanned, automatic shutdowns) in 7,000 hours of operation during the assessment period. However, because the NRC conducted a supplemental inspection related to the scrams this past February, only baseline inspections will be needed for the remainder of this year. The NRC will also conduct additional inspections in the areas of reactor pressure vessel head and vessel head penetration nozzles, reactor containment sump blockage, and spent fuel material control and accountability.

The NRC said it will also continue to conduct inspections of the plant's implementation of security Orders, along with implementation of any new security requirements..

The letter is available from Region II Public Affairs and on the NRC web site at http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/stl_2003q4.pdf .

Current performance indicators for the two units at the St. Lucie plant are available on the NRC web site at www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/STL1/stl1_chart.html and www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/STL2/stl2_chart.html .

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