



NRC NEWS

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

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NRC TO MEET WITH SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS SAFETY PERFORMANCE AT FARLEY NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with Southern Nuclear Operating Company officials on Tuesday, April 13, to discuss the results of NRC's annual assessment of safety performance at the Farley nuclear power plant near Dothan, Alabama.

The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Houston County Administration Building, 3rd Floor, County Commissioners' Chambers, 462 North Oats Street, in Dothan. 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 Southern Nuclear addresses plant safety performance during the previous year and forms the basis for the meeting discussions. It says Farley operated safely and that plant performance was at a level requiring no additional NRC inspection beyond normal. The letter is available from Region II Public Affairs and on the NRC web site at www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/far_2003q4.pdf.

In addition to the routine inspections, the NRC will conduct inspections of the reactor pressure vessel head, vessel upper and lower head penetration nozzles, reactor containment sump blockage, spent fuel material control and accounting, license renewal and independent spent fuel storage (dry cask storage) construction. The NRC will also continue to conduct inspections of the plant's implementation of NRC security Orders, along with any newly developed portions of the security inspection program.

The NRC said that on October 16, 2003, Southern Nuclear submitted a request to combine the emergency operating facilities for Farley, Hatch and Vogtle into one facility at the company's headquarters in Birmingham, Alabama. As part of the agency's review of that request, the NRC has arranged for a demonstration of the centralized facility's capabilities on July 14 of this year. The demonstration will include supporting exercises at Plant Farley and Plant Hatch. The emergency exercises will not be evaluated as part of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Program but will be used to determine approval of the request.

Current performance indicators for the two units at the Farley plant are available at www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/FAR1/far1_chart.html and www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/FAR2/far2_chart.html

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