



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC TO MEET WITH NUCLEAR MANAGEMENT COMPANY TO DISCUSS PERFORMANCE OF DUANE ARNOLD NUCLEAR PLANT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with representatives of Nuclear Management Company, on Monday, April 5, to discuss the results of the agency's assessment of safety performance at the Duane Arnold nuclear plant during 2003. The facility is located in Palo, Iowa.

The meeting will be held at 1 p.m. at Palo Community Center, 1006 1st Street, Palo, Iowa. The public is invited to observe the meeting, and NRC officials will be available before the conclusion of the meeting to answer questions from the public on the safety performance of the plant. In addition, the NRC staff will provide an overview of how the agency's Reactor Oversight Process works.

The NRC concluded that the plant operated safely last year, and plant performance does not require additional inspections beyond the normal inspection program. Routine inspections are performed by the two resident inspectors assigned to the plant and by inspection specialists from Region III office in Lisle, Illinois.

A March 4 letter from the NRC to Nuclear Management Company officials addresses the performance of the plant during this period and will serve as the basis for the meeting discussion. It is available at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/duan_2003q4.pdf

With regard to security issues, the NRC has issued several orders and threat advisories to enhance security capabilities and improve guard force readiness since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. The agency has also conducted inspections to review the implementation of these requirements and has monitored the action of plant operators in response to changing threat conditions. The NRC will continue security inspections during 2004.

Current performance indicators and inspection findings for Duane Arnold are available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/DUAN/duan_chart.html

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