



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

801 Warrendale Road

Lisle IL 60532

Web Site: <http://www.nrc.gov> E-mail: opa3@nrc.gov

No. III-04-035

May 25, 2004

CONTACT: Jan Strasma (630) 829-9663
Viktoria Mitlyng (630) 829-9662

NRC TO MEET WITH NUCLEAR MANAGEMENT COMPANY TO DISCUSS PERFORMANCE OF KEWAUNEE NUCLEAR PLANT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with representatives of Nuclear Management Company on June 2 to discuss the results of the agency's assessment of safety performance at the Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant during 2003. The facility is located in Kewaunee, Wisconsin.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at the Kewaunee Municipal Building Council Chamber Conference Room, 401 5th Street, in Kewaunee. 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. In addition, the NRC staff will provide an overview of how the agency's Reactor Oversight Process works.

The NRC has concluded that the plant operated safely last year. All NRC inspection findings during the year were of very low safety significance and safety performance data indicated no issues requiring NRC follow-up.

Routine inspections are performed by the two NRC resident inspectors assigned to the plant and by inspection specialists from the NRC's Region III office in Lisle, Illinois.

In its assessment, the NRC noted two concerns: recent inspection findings indicated deficiencies within the engineering program and longstanding issues in the area of emergency preparedness had not been resolved effectively. The NRC will continue to monitor the utility's response to these two issues.

A March 4 letter from the NRC to Nuclear Management Company officials addresses the performance of the plant during 2003 and will serve as the basis for the meeting discussion. It is available at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/kewa_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 the Kewaunee plant are available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/KEWA/kewa_chart.html

###