



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-04-053

October 18, 2004

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NRC TO MEET WITH FRAMATOME NUCLEAR FUEL PLANT OFFICIALS OCTOBER 28 TO DISCUSS FACILITY SAFETY PERFORMANCE

Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials will meet with officials of the Framatome ANP-Richland commercial nuclear fuel plant in Richland, Wash., on October 28 to discuss the agency's latest review of the facility's safety performance.

The meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. in Conference Room 5 at the facility site located at 2101 Horn Rapids Road in Richland, and is open to observation by the public. NRC officials will be available before the close of the meeting to answer questions from interested observers.

The NRC review evaluates Framatome safety performance in the major areas of safety operations, radiological controls, facility support and special topics and covers the period from May 1, 2002, through July 31, 2004.

The review found that Framatome had continued to conduct its activities safely. The NRC staff, however, found that improvement was still needed in both communication of criticality safety information to workers and control of criticality safety documentation. In addition, some deficiencies in the facility's emergency preparedness program were identified. However, the NRC said that a July 2004 emergency exercise demonstrated that those deficiencies had been resolved.

The NRC will continue to monitor Framatome performance in these and other areas during the next 12 to 24 months through the normal NRC inspection program.

A copy of the NRC letter to Framatome which outlines details of the review is available by contacting OPA2@nrc.gov or from the NRC web site by going to www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html and entering ML042800257 as the search term.

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