



NRC NEWS

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

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NRC TO DISCUSS 2004 PERFORMANCE AT BRUNSWICK NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff are scheduled to meet with Progress Energy officials on April 12 to discuss the NRC's annual assessment of safety performance at the Brunswick nuclear power plant, located near Southport, N.C. The period covered is the calendar year 2004.

The 1 p.m. meeting at the Brunswick plant's Media Center is open to public observation. Before the end of the meeting, the NRC staff will be available to answer public questions on the plant's safety performance, as well as the NRC's role in ensuring safe operation of the facility.

"Each year the NRC staff rates the performance of the Brunswick plant and all of the nation's other commercial nuclear power plants," NRC Region II Administrator William Travers said. "This meeting gives us a chance to discuss our assessment with the company, with local officials and with residents near the plant. Our aim is to make this information available to the public and answer any questions people may have about our oversight."

The NRC uses color coded inspection findings and performance indicators to assess nuclear power plant performance. The colors start with "green" and increase to "white," "yellow," or "red," commensurate with the safety significance of the issues involved.

Brunswick Units 1 and 2 operated safely during 2004, the NRC report said. However, one inspection finding related to an emergency diesel generator was classified as "white" (of low to moderate safety significance) during the review period. A subsequent NRC inspection found that the company's corrective actions were adequate to address the issues. Based on these results and overall performance, the NRC will conduct only normal reactor oversight safety inspections during the next evaluation period. The NRC also plans to conduct an inspection of the Brunswick license renewal aging management program.

A letter sent from the NRC Region II office in Atlanta to plant officials addresses the plant's performance during 2004 and will serve as the basis for the meeting discussion. It is available on the NRC web site at www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/bru_2004q4.pdf.

Routine inspections are performed by NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant and by inspection specialists from the Region II office in Atlanta and the agency's headquarters in Rockville, Md.

Current information for the Brunswick plant is available on the NRC web site at:
www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/BRU1/bru1_chart.html and
www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/BRU2/bru2_chart.html .

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