



NRC NEWS

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs Region IV
611 Ryan Plaza Drive - Suite 400
Arlington, TX 76011-4005

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Contact: Victor Dricks
Phone: 817-860-8128

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E-Mail: opa4@nrc.gov

NRC TO MEET WITH THE PUBLIC TO DISCUSS RESULTS OF HUMBOLDT BAY NUCLEAR PLANT SPECIAL INSPECTION

Officials of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission will meet with the public Sept. 15 to discuss results of a special inspection regarding the circumstances of the company's reported loss of nuclear material from the Humboldt Bay nuclear plant near Eureka, Calif.

The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Humboldt Bay Yacht Club, Wharfinger Building, One Marina Way, in Eureka. NRC staff will brief the public on the results of its inspection and invite questions and comments from the public. Executives from Pacific Gas & Electric Co., which owns the plant that shut down in 1976, also will participate.

PG&E officials notified the NRC on Aug. 17, 2004, that they have been unable to locate three sections of a spent nuclear fuel rod that records show was removed from the reactor in 1968. In addition to the fuel rod segments, PG&E has informed the NRC that it cannot account for several small detectors removed from the reactor core, which contain small amounts of nuclear material. The special inspection reviewed PG&E's search activities and its radioactive material control and accountability program.

It is considered highly unlikely that the material is in an area to which the public would have access, and is most likely either in the spent fuel pool or has been sent to a licensed disposal facility.

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