



NRC NEWS

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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No. IV-07-007
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April 10, 2007
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NRC TO HOLD REGULATORY CONFERENCE WITH OMAHA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT TO DISCUSS APPARENT VIOLATION AT FT. CALHOUN

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with representatives of the Omaha Public Power District on April 16 to discuss an apparent violation of agency requirements involving the improper installation of a valve that degraded the condition of a safety system at the Ft. Calhoun plant for 454 days.

The regulatory conference is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. in the NRC Region IV Office at 611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Arlington, Texas. The meeting is between NRC staff and officials of the Omaha Public Power District, which operates the Ft. Calhoun nuclear plant near Omaha, Neb., but members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions of NRC staff prior to the end of the meeting.

A telephone bridge will be available for members of the public by calling 1-800-952-9677 and requesting to be transferred to the meeting.

An NRC inspection, described in a report released on March 2, determined a valve in the containment spray system was improperly installed on May 11, 2005. The system sprays water in the building containing the reactor to reduce pressure under some accident conditions. The valve remained improperly positioned for 454 days until it was corrected when the plant was shut down. The finding has preliminarily been characterized as having low to moderate safety significance.

The NRC staff is satisfied that the licensee completed a thorough review and analysis of the event and has taken appropriate corrective actions. The purpose of the April 16 meeting will be to determine the final safety significance of the issue. No decision will be made by the NRC staff at the meeting, but NRC management will make a decision sometime in the near future.

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