



NRC NEWS

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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April 17, 2007
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NRC TO DISCUSS 2006 PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FOR FT. CALHOUN NUCLEAR PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet in Omaha, Neb., on April 24, with representatives of the Omaha Public Power District to discuss the agency's assessment of safety performance for last year at the Ft. Calhoun nuclear plant near Omaha.

The meeting, which will be open to the public, is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. at the Omaha Marriott, 10220 Regency Circle, Omaha.

In addition to the performance assessment, the NRC staff will be available to answer questions from the public on the safety performance of Ft. Calhoun, as well as the NRC's role in ensuring safe plant operation.

"The NRC continually reviews the performance of Ft. Calhoun and the nation's other commercial nuclear power facilities," NRC Region IV Administrator Bruce S. Mallett said. "This meeting will provide an opportunity for a discussion of our annual assessment of safety performance with the company and with local officials and residents who live near the plant."

A letter sent from the NRC Region IV office to plant officials addresses the performance of the plant during 2006 and will serve as the basis for the meeting discussion. It is available on the NRC web site at:

http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/fcs_2006q4.pdf.

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

The NRC said Ft. Calhoun operated safely during 2006, but has yet to reach a final determination on the safety significance of one violation related to an improperly installed valve in the plant's containment spray system. It also identified 13 "green" violations in the area of human performance during the assessment period. NRC will continue to focus attention on this area as part of its baseline inspections during 2007.

Routine inspections are performed by two NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant and by inspection specialists from the Region IV Office in Arlington, Texas. Among the areas of plant performance to be inspected this year by NRC specialists are activities associated with engineering, fire protection, emergency preparedness, maintenance and radiological controls.

Current performance information for Ft. Calhoun is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/FCS/fcs_chart.html .

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