



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC TO HOLD REGULATORY CONFERENCE WITH ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE CO. ON PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold a regulatory conference with Arizona Public Service Co. officials on March 25 to discuss the significance of an inspection finding at the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station. The plant, operated by APS, is located 55 miles west of Phoenix.

Conferees will discuss the significance of an inspection finding regarding emergency preparedness and the licensee's failure to correct deficiencies in a timely manner. The deficiencies led senior operators to incorrectly classify a simulated emergency event during an evaluated training session in May 2007.

The meeting, which will be open to public observation, will begin at 12:30 p.m. in the NRC's Region IV offices in Arlington, Texas. The public will have an opportunity to observe and ask questions of NRC staff before the meeting is adjourned. Members of the public can listen to the meeting via a special telephone line by calling 1-800-952-9677, and requesting extension 472.

The NRC evaluates regulatory performance at commercial nuclear power plants with a color coded process which classifies regulatory findings as either green, white, yellow or red, in increasing order of safety significance. The NRC staff has preliminary determined that the significance of the violation is "white," meaning it had low to moderate safety significance.

No decision on the final significance, the apparent violations or any contemplated enforcement action will be made during the conference. Those decisions will be made by NRC officials at a later date.

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