



NRC NEWS

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NRC SCHEDULES OPEN HOUSE TO DISCUSS NUCLEAR POWER PLANT ISSUES AND 2008 PERFORMANCE OF DUANE ARNOLD NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled an open house for Tuesday, June 30, to meet with local residents to discuss the NRC's activities, nuclear power issues and answer questions about the agency's 2008 assessment of safety performance at the Duane Arnold nuclear power plant. The plant operated by NextEra Energy is in Palo, Iowa, roughly 10 miles northwest of Cedar Rapids.

The open house is informal and will begin at 5 p.m. CDT at the Hiawatha Community Center, 101 Emmons St., in Hiawatha. NRC staff will be available to answer questions on the safety performance of the Duane Arnold plant, as well as areas of plant safety and security not specifically associated with the Duane Arnold station.

"The meeting offers an opportunity for people in the community to ask questions of the NRC about nuclear issues as well as hear about the performance of the Duane Arnold plant and the nation's other commercial nuclear power facilities," said NRC Region III Administrator Mark Satorius. "We want to help people understand how the NRC works to protect the public and the environment and make sure as much information as possible is available on the NRC's regulation of nuclear power plants."

A letter sent from the NRC Region III office to plant officials addressed the performance of the plant during 2008 and will serve as the basis for the discussion. It is available on the NRC Web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/duan_2008q4.pdf.

The NRC found that the Duane Arnold plant met all NRC safety objectives during 2008, and its performance was at a level that resulted in no additional NRC oversight.

As a result of this performance, the NRC plans to conduct the very detailed inspections required at those plants operating well. Those inspections are conducted by the NRC resident inspectors assigned to the site supplemented by more specific inspections completed by region based NRC inspectors. Among the areas of plant operations to be inspected this year by the NRC are radiation protection, emergency preparedness and the identification and resolution of problems.

Current performance information for Duane Arnold is available on the NRC Web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/DUAN/duan_chart.html.

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