



NRC NEWS

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NRC SCHEDULES MEETING TO DISCUSS 2010 PERFORMANCE OF ST. LUCIE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled a meeting for Wednesday, April 13, with representatives of Florida Power and Light Co. to discuss the agency's assessment of safety performance during 2010 at the St. Lucie nuclear power plant. The plant, operated by FPL, is located in Jensen Beach, Fla., east of Port St. Lucie.

The meeting, which is open to the public, is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. EDT at the St. Lucie Energy Encounter Facility on Hutchinson Island, located at 6501 S A1A in Jensen Beach, Fla. After the meeting, the NRC staff will be available to answer questions on the safety performance of the St. Lucie plant, as well as the agency's role in ensuring safe plant operation.

"The NRC evaluates nuclear plants in a systematic and detailed way every year," NRC Region II Administrator Victor McCree said. "The oversight and inspections at St. Lucie verify that plant operations are conducted safely and in accordance with regulatory requirements, in a way that protects people and the environment."

A letter sent from the NRC Region II office to plant officials addresses the performance of the plant during 2010 and will serve as the basis for the meeting discussion. It is available on the NRC web site at: www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/stl_2010q4.pdf.

The NRC found that the St. Lucie plant's 2010 performance met all of the agency's safety objectives and was at a level that results in no additional NRC oversight. This year, the NRC plans to conduct the very detailed inspections required at those plants that are operating well. Unit 1 had been subject to increased oversight for the first three quarters of the assessment period due to a past failure to correct a problem with the system that uses water to cool some safety equipment. An NRC supplemental inspection related to the issue found that the licensee had addressed the problem and the NRC resumed normal inspections in that area.

All the inspection findings at both units during the most recent quarter had very low safety significance and were classified as "green."

The NRC uses color-coded inspection findings and performance indicators to assess plant performance. The colors start with “green,” which has very low safety significance, to “white,” “yellow” or “red,” based on the significance of the issues. Inspection findings and performance indicators are updated on the NRC’s web site (www.nrc.gov) each quarter.

Current performance information for St. Lucie Unit 1 is available on the NRC web site at www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/STL1/stl1_chart.html. Current performance information for Unit 2 is at www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/STL2/stl2_chart.html.

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