



NRC NEWS

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NRC SCHEDULES MEETING TO DISCUSS HONEYWELL CONFIRMATORY ORDER AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled a public meeting in Metropolis, Ill., for Nov. 29 to discuss a Confirmatory Order issued to Honeywell Metropolis Works and the company's actions to modify the plant to meet NRC requirements.

The NRC issued a Confirmatory Order to Honeywell in October, outlining actions the company must take before it can resume its uranium conversion operations at the facility. The NRC concluded following an inspection in May that process equipment in the facility lacks seismic restraints, support and bracing needed to assure integrity during a significant earthquake or tornado.

Specifically, the inspection determined that the amount of uranium hexafluoride that could be released into the environment should the process equipment be damaged by such an event could be significantly larger than previously assumed. The material that could be released poses more of a chemical hazard than a radiation hazard. There is no current safety concern since the facility has been shut down since May.

The Nov. 29 meeting will be preceded by an open house and poster session at 6 p.m. CST, with the meeting scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. Both sessions will be held at the Metropolis Community Center, 900 West 10th St., in Metropolis. The NRC actively seeks participation from members of the public and NRC officials will be available during the open house and after the meeting to answer questions and provide further information about NRC oversight of the facility.

In addition to NRC officials, those scheduled to participate in the meeting include Honeywell executives, the mayor of Metropolis and representatives of the state of Illinois, the Commonwealth of Kentucky and Massac and McCracken counties.

The Honeywell plant takes milled uranium and converts it into uranium hexafluoride gas which is then enriched at other facilities to make fuel for commercial power reactors.

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