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CONTACT: Roger Hannah 404-997-4417
Joey Ledford 404-997-4416

NRC Schedules Regulatory Conference to Discuss Apparent Violation at Robinson Nuclear Plant

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has scheduled a regulatory conference with Duke Energy to discuss the risk significance of an apparent violation related to the company's failure to perform adequate preventive maintenance on the dedicated shutdown diesel generator at the Robinson nuclear power plant.

The Robinson plant, operated by Duke, is near Hartsville, S.C., about 28 miles northwest of Florence.

The conference is scheduled for Monday, Aug. 19, at 10:30 a.m. at the NRC's Region 2 offices, 245 Peachtree Center Ave., NE, Suite 1200, in Atlanta. The public is invited to attend, and NRC officials will answer questions from the public after the business portion of the conference.

NRC and Duke officials will discuss the risk significance of the apparent violation, which was identified after the failure of the radiator fan belts and subsequent automatic shutdown of the dedicated shutdown diesel generator in October 2012. There was no actual event requiring the use of that diesel generator and it was repaired and returned to service. However, the fan belts were degraded, in part, because of inadequate inspection, maintenance and periodic replacement. The belt failures could have prevented the shutdown diesel generator from being available during a loss of power or a fire.

Even though there was no threat to workers or people living near the plant, the NRC has preliminarily determined the finding is white, meaning it has low to moderate safety significance.

The NRC uses color-coded inspection finding to assess plant performance. The colors range from green, or very low safety significance, to white, yellow and red, which has the highest safety significance.

No decision on the final safety significance and any additional NRC actions will be made at the conference. That decision will be announced at a later time.

The NRC [inspection report](#) with more details on the apparent violation is available on the NRC website.