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NRC Schedules Meetings to Discuss Vogtle Nuclear Plant Performance and Construction Inspection for New Units

Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials have scheduled an open house for April 24 to provide information on the agency's assessment of the two operating units at the Vogtle nuclear plant during 2013. The NRC will also provide a presentation on the agency's inspection of construction activities for the two new Vogtle units.

The informal open house is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. in the auditorium of the Augusta Technical College's Waynesboro Campus, located at 216 Ga. Highway 24 S, in Waynesboro, Ga. The NRC staff will be available to answer questions about the safety performance of Vogtle Units 1 and 2, as well as overall NRC oversight and inspection. A separate presentation on inspection and oversight of Units 3 and 4, now under construction, is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. in the same auditorium and will be followed by a question and answer session.

The Vogtle plant is located near Waynesboro, about 26 miles southeast of Augusta. It is operated by Southern Nuclear Operating Co.

Overall, the NRC staff concluded that Vogtle Units 1 and 2 operated safely in 2013, and there were no inspection findings or performance indicators that would cause the NRC to increase its level of oversight and inspection. Based on the plant's performance, the NRC staff plans to continue the detailed routine or baseline inspections all nuclear power plants receive.

"Our resident and region-based inspectors spend many hours monitoring plant activities to ensure that the plant operates safely," said NRC Region II Administrator Victor McCree. "We hold these meetings every year to make our staff available to people who live close to the plant and answer questions about our oversight."

Routine inspections are carried out by the NRC resident inspectors assigned to the plant and by inspection specialists from the Region II office in Atlanta.

The NRC performance review of Vogtle site construction found that, overall, Southern Nuclear Operating Co. and its contractors conducted construction activities in compliance with NRC regulations and the conditions of the plant's combined license. Based on that assessment, the NRC will not expand its activities beyond the detailed inspections currently being planned and conducted.

The annual assessment letter for the Vogtle units, current performance information for Unit 1 and Unit 2, and the annual construction assessment letter for the new Vogtle units are available on the NRC website.