

No: II-16-022

April 14, 2016

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NRC Schedules Open House and Meeting to Discuss Assessment of Sequoyah Nuclear Plant and NRC Research Analyzing Unlikely Accidents

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled an open house for Wednesday, April 20, to discuss the agency's assessment of the Sequoyah nuclear plant's two units during 2015.

That open house will be followed by another meeting discussing NRC research into the potential consequences of low probability accidents at nuclear plants, how plants are equipped to handle those accidents and how that research applies specifically to the Sequoyah plant.

The plant, which is operated by the Tennessee Valley Authority, is located near Soddy-Daisy, Tenn., about 16 miles northeast of Chattanooga.

The open house for the plant's annual assessment, which will include informational posters, is scheduled from 5-6 p.m. in the Sequoyah Nuclear Training Building Auditorium, 2600 Igou Ferry Rd. in Soddy-Daisy.

NRC resident inspectors and other staff members will be available at that open house to answer questions on the safety performance and regulatory oversight of the Sequoyah plant, as well as highlights of NRC inspections.

The second meeting will begin with an open house at 6:30 p.m. followed by a brief presentation on the NRC research at 7. Members of the NRC research team will then be available to answer any questions about that research. The NRC has produced a brochure, which will be available on the NRC website, that describes the research study and how it applies to Sequoyah.

The highlights of the study include findings that operators can take steps to prevent, delay and reduce the consequences of the accident scenarios analyzed; that all modeled scenarios progress more slowly and release much smaller amounts of material than earlier studies found; and that there would be more time to implement emergency response measures than previously calculated, reducing the risk of public health consequences.

"We invite the public to visit with us and find out what we're doing to ensure Sequoyah and other nuclear plants are operated safely," said NRC Region II Administrator Cathy Haney. "The meetings offer an opportunity for everyone, and especially people who live near the plant, to learn more about the NRC's work at the Sequoyah plant."

The NRC's annual [assessment letter](#) to plant officials addressing the 2015 Sequoyah plant performance will serve as the main focus of the open house, but NRC staff members will be available to answer other questions about the NRC's role at the plant.

The NRC review concluded that the Sequoyah plant operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and protected the environment. Unit 2 will continue to receive the detailed routine or baseline inspections this year that all nuclear power plants receive. Unit 1 is subject to increased inspection because it had a white performance indicator for unplanned shutdowns during the assessment period.

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, and then progress to white, yellow or red, based on the significance of the issues.

Current performance information for both Sequoyah [Unit 1](#) and [Unit 2](#), as well as more detailed information about NRC inspection and oversight, is available on the [NRC website](#). Plant performance indicators and inspection reports are updated at least quarterly.