



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC SCHEDULES MEETING TO DISCUSS INSPECTION OF OCONEE NUCLEAR PLANT ISSUES

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled a meeting with officials of Duke Energy on Jan. 26 to discuss the agency's completed corrective action inspection for two inspection findings, one "yellow" and one "white," previously identified at the Oconee nuclear power plant, located near Seneca, S.C., about 30 miles west of Greenville.

The two findings were associated with the plant's standby shutdown systems, which can be used if normal and emergency systems are unavailable. Those findings caused the NRC to place the Oconee plant in a category requiring increased oversight and a detailed additional inspection.

At the meeting, NRC and Duke officials will discuss the NRC inspection and Duke's corrective actions. If those actions have been found by the NRC to be sufficient, oversight and inspection of the Oconee plant will return to normal levels.

The meeting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. EST in the World of Energy, 7812 Rochester Highway near Seneca. The public is invited to observe and NRC staff will be available to answer questions after the business portion of the meeting.

The NRC evaluates regulatory performance at commercial nuclear power plants with a color-coded system which classifies findings as green, white, yellow or red, in increasing order of safety significance. As the significance of findings increase, the NRC increases the level of oversight for that plant. If a plant takes appropriate corrective actions and improves safety performance, the agency returns to its normal, but still extensive, inspection schedule.

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