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NRC to Hold Meeting to Discuss Performance of Westinghouse Columbia Fuel Plant

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold a public meeting on May 8 to discuss the results of its regulatory safety performance review of the Westinghouse nuclear fuel fabrication facility in Columbia, S.C.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m., in the Gervais Street Room at the South Carolina State Museum, 301 Gervais St., in Columbia. The meeting is open to the public and the media. NRC officials will be available to answer questions following the formal presentations.

The NRC staff assessed performance of the Westinghouse facility during the 2017 calendar year in safety operations, safeguards, radiological controls, facility support and other areas. The NRC staff review determined that the company continued to conduct its activities safely and securely, protecting public health and the environment.

The NRC staff continues to identify one area needing improvement in safety operations due to an accumulation of uranium-bearing material in a scrubber system discovered in May 2016. The latest NRC review also continues to list weaknesses in management measures used and assumptions made by the facility in safety evaluations. The area needing improvement will be closed by the NRC once the agency is satisfied that the company has met all the requirements detailed in a [confirmatory order](#) issued in August 2017. The Westinghouse facility will be subject to increased NRC inspections and the next licensee performance review will be completed at the end of 2018 instead of the normal 24-month review for NRC-licensed nuclear fuel facilities.

The NRC [letter](#) to the company regarding the performance review, as well as the [notice](#) for the meeting, are available on the [NRC website](#).