NRC Hosts Virtual Meeting to Discuss Safety Performance at Vogtle Nuclear Power Plant

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold a virtual public meeting April 21 to discuss the agency’s annual safety performance assessment of the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, including the two units under construction. The plant is located in eastern Georgia near Augusta and is operated by Southern Nuclear Operating Co.

The online session will begin at 4 p.m. Eastern time on Microsoft Teams with a short presentation from the NRC staff responsible for inspections at the two operating units and the two under construction, followed by a question-and-answer session.

The meeting is also assessable by telephone by calling 301-576-2978, passcode 991829252#. Telephone participants will need to press *6 to unmute their phones to ask the NRC staff questions during that part of the meeting.

The NRC found that Vogtle Units 1 and 2 operated safely during 2021, and all inspection findings and performance indicators had very low safety significance. As a result, both plants remain under the NRC’s normal level of oversight, which entails thousands of hours of inspection each year.

The NRC concluded that the two units under construction were being built in a safe manner. Vogtle Unit 3 received increased NRC oversight in 2021 after the agency finalized two inspection findings involving the safety-related electrical raceway system. The NRC characterized those findings as having a low-to-moderate safety significance. Vogtle Unit 4 remains under the NRC’s normal level of oversight for plants under construction.

The NRC Reactor Oversight Process and the Construction Reactor Oversight Process use color-coded inspection findings and indicators to measure plant and construction performance. The colors start at green and increase to white, yellow or red, commensurate with the safety significance of the issues involved. Inspection findings or performance indicators with more than very low safety significance trigger increased NRC oversight.

NRC resident inspectors and other specialist inspectors from the NRC Region II office in Atlanta perform inspections at the Vogtle plant. The annual assessment letters and the meeting notice are available on the NRC website. Current performance information for the site is available and updated quarterly.