



# NRC NEWS

**U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

Office of Public Affairs, Region II

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## **NRC SCHEDULES MEETINGS TO DISCUSS VOGTLE NUCLEAR PLANT PERFORMANCE AND CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION FOR NEW UNITS**

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials have scheduled an open house for Thursday, March 29 to provide information on the agency's assessment of the two operating units at the Vogtle nuclear power plant during 2011. 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 and poster session is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. in the auditorium of the Augusta Technical College's Waynesboro Campus, located at 216 Georgia Highway 24 S in Waynesboro. 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 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 owned and operated by Southern Nuclear Operating Co.

Overall, the NRC staff concluded that Vogtle Units 1 and 2 operated safely in 2011, 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.

"The NRC continually evaluates nuclear plants in a detailed and systematic fashion," said NRC Region II Administrator Victor McCree. "Although we issue inspection reports throughout the year, in early March we send a letter to every plant providing an assessment of how well each unit did in meeting NRC safety requirements during the previous calendar year."

The NRC uses color-coded inspection findings and performance indicators to assess operating plant performance. The colors start with "green," which has very low safety significance, to "white," "yellow" or "red," based on the significance of the issues. Inspection findings and performance indicators are updated on the NRC's website ([www.nrc.gov](http://www.nrc.gov)) each quarter.

The annual assessment letter for Vogtle Units 1 and 2 is available on the NRC website at [www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/vog\\_2011q4.pdf](http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/vog_2011q4.pdf).

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.

Current performance information for Vogtle Unit 1 is available on the NRC website at: [www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/VOG1/vog1\\_chart.html](http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/VOG1/vog1_chart.html). Unit 2 is at [http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/VOG2/vog2\\_chart.html](http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/VOG2/vog2_chart.html).

The NRC performance review of Vogtle site construction found that, overall, Southern 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 detailed inspections planned and currently being conducted.

The annual assessment letter for the Vogtle construction inspection and oversight process is available from the ADAMS public document system on the NRC website by using the reference number ML12065A385.

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