



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC SCHEDULES OPEN HOUSE AND PRESENTATION TO DISCUSS ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled an open house and brief presentation for Tuesday, April 24 to discuss the agency's assessment of safety performance during 2011 for the Sequoyah nuclear power plant. The plant, operated by the Tennessee Valley Authority, is located near Soddy-Daisy, Tenn., about 18 miles northeast of Chattanooga.

The session, which will be open to the public, is scheduled from 6-7 p.m. EDT in the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant Training Center Auditorium, Igou Ferry Road in Soddy-Daisy.

NRC staff will be available to answer questions on the safety performance of the Sequoyah plant, as well as the NRC role in ensuring safe plant operations. A brief presentation on NRC oversight and the plant's performance in 2011 is scheduled for 6:30.

Overall, the NRC staff concluded that the Sequoyah plant operated safely in 2011 and Unit 2 will receive normal detailed baseline oversight and inspection efforts. Unit 1 was subject to additional NRC inspection based on the number of unplanned shutdowns, but a recent inspection found that TVA had taken actions to address the issues and Unit 1 has returned to the normal level of inspection.

The NRC uses color-coded inspection findings and performance indicators to assess plant performance. The colors start with "green," and escalate to "white," "yellow" or "red," based on the significance of the issues. Inspection findings and performance indicators are updated on the NRC's web site (www.nrc.gov) each quarter.

"During 2011, our inspectors spent many hours ensuring that the Sequoyah plant met NRC safety requirements and protected both people living near the plant and the environment," NRC Region II Administrator Victor McCree said.

NRC inspectors also looked at whether there were immediate safety concerns at Sequoyah and other U.S. plants after the March 2011 events at the Fukushima Daiichi plant in Japan. Those reviews found that the plants remained safe.

The annual assessment letter for the Sequoyah plant is available on the NRC web site at www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/seq_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. Among the areas at the Sequoyah plant to be inspected this year by NRC specialists are the Unit 2 steam generator replacement, operator licensing examinations, and problem identification and resolution.

Current performance information for Sequoyah Unit 1 is available on the NRC web site at www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/SEQ1/seq1_chart.html. Current performance information for Sequoyah Unit 2 is available on the NRC web site at www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/SEQ2/seq2_chart.html.

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