



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs, Region II
61 Forsyth Street SW, Atlanta GA 30303
Web Site: www.nrc.gov

No: II-08-022

CONTACT: Ken Clark (404)562-4416
Roger Hannah (404)562-4417

April 10, 2008

E-mail: OPA2@nrc.gov

NRC TO DISCUSS 2007 PERFORMANCE OF CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled a meeting for Monday, April 21, with representatives of Duke Energy to discuss the agency's assessment of safety performance during 2007 at the Catawba nuclear station, operated by the company near York, S.C.

The meeting, which will be open to the public, is scheduled to begin at 1:00 p.m. in the Rock Hill City Hall, 155 Johnston Street in Rock Hill, S.C.

After the formal presentation, NRC staff will be available to answer questions from the public on the safety performance of Catawba, as well as the NRC's role in ensuring safe plant operation.

"The NRC continually inspects and reviews the performance of Catawba and all commercial nuclear plants, issuing inspection reports throughout the year and an overall assessment at year's end," NRC Region II Administrator Victor McCree said. "This meeting is an opportunity to discuss our assessment with the company, local officials and people living near the plant, and to answer any questions they may have."

The NRC said Catawba operated safely during the 2007 assessment period, from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31. All inspection findings for Units 1 and 2 were "green" and of very low safety significance, and all performance indicators showed the plant operating at a level that does not require additional NRC oversight. Therefore, the NRC will be conducting only its regular, baseline inspections at the plant during 2008.

When assessing nuclear plant performance, the NRC uses color-coded performance indicators and inspection findings. The colors start with "green" and then increase to "white," "yellow" or "red" based on the safety significance of the issues involved.

A letter sent from the NRC Region II office to plant officials addresses the performance of the plant during 2007 and will serve as the basis for the meeting discussion. It is available on the NRC web site at: www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/cat_2007q4.pdf.

Current performance information for the two units at the Catawba station is available on the NRC web site at: www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/CAT1/cat1_chart.html and www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/CAT2/cat2_chart.html .

###

News releases are available through a free *listserv* subscription at the following Web address: <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/listserver.html>. The NRC homepage at www.nrc.gov also offers a SUBSCRIBE link. E-mail notifications are sent to subscribers when news releases are posted to NRC's Web site.