



NRC NEWS

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NRC TO DISCUSS 2010 PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FOR FORT CALHOUN NUCLEAR PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet in Omaha, Neb., on April 6, with representatives of Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) to discuss the agency's 2010 assessment of safety performance for the Fort Calhoun nuclear plant. OPPD operates the plant, located about 20 miles north of Omaha.

The meeting, which will be open to the public, is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn, 1005 Dodge St., Omaha.

In addition to the performance assessment, the NRC staff will be available to answer questions from the public on the safety performance of Fort Calhoun, as well as the NRC's role in ensuring safe plant operation.

"The NRC continually reviews the performance of Fort Calhoun and the nation's other commercial nuclear power facilities," NRC Region IV Administrator Elmo E. Collins said. "This meeting will provide an opportunity for a discussion of our annual assessment of safety performance with the company and with local officials and residents who live near the plant."

A letter sent from the NRC Region IV office to plant officials addresses the performance of the plant during 2010 and will serve as the basis for the meeting discussion. It is available on the NRC web site at http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/fcs_2010q4.pdf.

The NRC uses color-coded inspection findings and performance indicators to assess nuclear power plant performance. The colors start with "green" and increase to "white," "yellow," and red according to the safety significance of the issues involved.

The NRC said Fort Calhoun operated safely during 2010 but will receive heightened oversight during 2011 because of a violation of NRC regulations involving a "yellow" inspection finding of substantial safety significance. The finding involved the failure to have adequate procedures to protect the intake structure of the plant and the auxiliary building during flooding.

In addition to the detailed inspections that all plants receive, NRC plans to conduct a supplemental inspection later this year to verify that the licensee has appropriately addressed the root cause of the performance issues.

Inspections are performed by two NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant and by inspection specialists from the Region IV Office in Arlington, Texas.

Current performance information for Fort Calhoun is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/FCS/fcs_chart.html.

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