



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC SCHEDULES OPEN HOUSE TO DISCUSS 2010 PERFORMANCE OF NORTH ANNA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled a meeting for Monday, April 4, to discuss the agency's assessment of safety performance during 2010 at the North Anna nuclear power plant. The plant, operated by Dominion, is on Lake Anna about 40 miles northwest of Richmond.

The meeting, which is open to the public, is scheduled for 5-7 p.m. at the North Anna Nuclear Information Center, 1022 Haley Drive, Mineral, Va. After the meeting, NRC staff will be available to answer questions on the safety performance of the North Anna plant last year, as well as the NRC role in ensuring safe plant operation.

"Each year, the NRC evaluates the safety performance of nuclear plants in a detailed and systematic way," NRC Region II Administrator Victor McCree said. "The inspections and oversight at North Anna ensure that the plant is operated in a way that protects people near the plant as well as the environment."

A letter sent from the NRC Region II office to plant officials addresses the performance of the plant during 2009 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/na_2010q4.pdf.

The NRC found that the performance of Unit 1 at the North Anna plant met all of the agency's safety objectives in 2010 and was at a level that results in no additional NRC oversight. However, Unit 2 faces some additional oversight and inspections in 2011 due to a white performance indicator for four unplanned reactor scrams, or shutdowns, during the last four quarters that exceeded a threshold for unplanned scrams per 7,000 hours of operation.

The NRC uses color-coded inspection findings and performance indicators to assess plant performance. The colors start with "green," which has very low safety significance, to "white," which means low to moderate safety significance, to "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.

This year, the NRC plans to continue to conduct the very detailed inspections required at those plants that are operating well. In addition, the agency will complete some generic inspections related to operator licensing examinations and managing gas accumulation in emergency core cooling, decay heat removal and containment spray systems.

Current performance information for North Anna Unit 1 is available on the NRC web site at www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/NA1/na1_chart.html. Current performance information for Unit 2 is at www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/NA2/na2_chart.html.