



NRC NEWS

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NRC TO DISCUSS 2010 PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FOR WOLF CREEK NUCLEAR PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet in Burlington, Kan., on April 5, with representatives of Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corp. to discuss the agency's 2010 assessment of safety performance for the Wolf Creek nuclear plant.

The meeting, which will be open to the public, is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. at the Coffey County Library, Burlington Branch, 410 Juniatta Street in Burlington.

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

"The NRC continually reviews the performance of Wolf Creek 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/wc_2010q4.pdf.

The NRC said the Wolf Creek plant operated safely during 2010. However, the plant is receiving heightened oversight from the NRC because of exceeding performance thresholds in the frequency of unplanned shutdowns and unplanned shutdowns with complications as well as safety system functional failures. Also, despite efforts by the licensee, weaknesses remain in the area of problem identification and resolution and human performance and the NRC will continue to focus inspection attention on these areas.

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

Information about the plant's current performance is available at:
http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/WC/wc_chart.html.

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