



NRC NEWS

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, REGION II

61 Forsyth Street SW, Atlanta GA 30303

Web Site: www.nrc.gov

No. II-05-009

March 14, 2005

CONTACT: Ken Clark (404)562-4416

E-mail: OPA2@nrc.gov

Roger Hannah (404)562-4417

NRC TO DISCUSS 2004 PERFORMANCE AT ROBINSON NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff are scheduled to meet with Progress Energy officials March 24, to discuss the NRC's annual assessment of safety performance at the Robinson nuclear power plant, located near Hartsville, S.C. The period covered is the calendar year 2004.

The 3 p.m. meeting at the Hartsville Public Library is open to public observation. Before the session ends, NRC staff will be available to answer public questions on the plant's safety performance, as well as the agency's role in ensuring safe operation of the facility.

"Each year the NRC staff rates the performance of the Robinson plant and all of the nation's other commercial nuclear power plants," NRC Region II Administrator William Travers said. "This meeting gives us a chance to discuss our assessment with the company, with local officials and with residents near the plant. Our aim is to make this information available to the public and answer any questions people may have about our oversight."

A letter sent from the NRC Region II Office to plant officials addresses the performance of the plant during the period 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/rob_2004q4.pdf.

Overall, the Robinson plant operated safely during 2004. The NRC uses color-coded inspection findings and performance indicators to assess nuclear plant performance. The colors start with "green" and increase to "white," "yellow" or "red," commensurate with the safety significance of the issues involved. Robinson did have one "white" performance indicator during the period, but an NRC inspection found that the company's subsequent actions were adequate to address the issue. Based on these results and overall performance, Robinson will receive the baseline, or normal, level of inspections during 2005.

Routine inspections are performed by NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant and by inspection specialists from the Region II Office in Atlanta, and the agency's headquarters in Rockville, Md. In addition to the baseline inspections in 2005, the NRC plans inspections of the reactor vessel head replacement and the under-construction spent fuel storage installation.

Current information for the Robinson plant is available on the NRC web site at: www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/ROB2/rob2_chart.html.

###