



NRC NEWS

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OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, REGION II

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NRC TO MEET WITH TVA OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS SAFETY PERFORMANCE AT BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with Tennessee Valley Authority officials on Tuesday, May 24, to discuss the results of NRC's annual assessment of safety performance for Units 2 and 3 at the Browns Ferry nuclear power plant near Athens, Ala.

The meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. (CDT) in the Browns Ferry training center, located at the site near Athens, Ala. The public is invited to observe the meeting, and NRC officials will be available before the conclusion of the meeting to answer any questions.

The NRC says TVA operated Units 2 and 3 safely during the previous year. As a result of that assessment, the NRC will conduct normal inspections for those two units at Browns Ferry this year.

The NRC says it will also conduct additional inspections (not related to the plant's performance) on the plant's Independent Spent Fuel (Dry Cask) Storage Installation project, verification of power uprate modifications and license renewal activities.

Additionally, the NRC plans to continue routine oversight inspections of Unit 1 recovery work and specialized inspections of significant Unit 1 modification work. In 2004, the NRC staff determined that transition criteria have been met at Unit 1 in the areas of Occupational Radiation Safety, Public Radiation Safety, Emergency Preparedness and Physical Protection and will monitor those areas during 2005 under the current reactor oversight process.

Dr. William Travers, Administrator of the NRC Region II office in Atlanta, said "Each year the NRC staff rates the regulatory performance at Browns Ferry and at all of the nation's other commercial nuclear power plants. This 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 from the NRC to TVA is available from Region II Public Affairs and on the NRC web site at www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/bf_2004q4.pdf.

Current performance indicators for the two operating units at the Browns Ferry plant are available at www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/BF2/bf2_chart.html and www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/BF3/bf3_chart.html.

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