



NRC NEWS

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NRC SCHEDULES OPEN HOUSE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ON 2008 PERFORMANCE OF CRYSTAL RIVER NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled an open house for Thursday, April 30, and will be available to discuss and answer questions about the agency's assessment of safety performance during 2008 at the Crystal River nuclear power plant. The plant, operated by Progress Energy, is located near Crystal River, Fla. about 80 miles north of Tampa.

The open house is informal and scheduled to begin at 3 p.m. in the Crystal River Plant Training Center, 8200 West Venable Street in Crystal River.

NRC staff will be available to answer questions on the safety performance of the Crystal River plant, as well as the NRC role in ensuring safe plant operation.

"Throughout the year, we inspect and review the performance of the Crystal River plant and all commercial nuclear plants," NRC Region II Administrator Luis Reyes said. "We issue several inspection reports during the year and an overall annual assessment. This open house allows us to discuss that assessment with local officials and people near the plant, and answer any questions they may have."

A letter sent from the NRC Region II office to plant officials addresses the performance of the plant during 2008 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/cr_2008q4.pdf.

The NRC found that the Crystal River plant met all NRC safety objectives during 2008, and performance at the plant was at a level that resulted in no additional NRC oversight.

This year, the NRC plans to continue to conduct the very detailed inspections required at those plants operating well. Those inspections are by NRC resident inspectors assigned to the site supplemented by more specific inspections completed by region-based NRC inspectors. In addition to the detailed routine inspections, the agency will complete some generic inspections ranging from operator licensing examinations to emergency response to ground water protection at Crystal River in 2009.

Current performance information for the Crystal River plant is available on the NRC web site at: www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/CR3/cr3_chart.html.

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