



NRC NEWS

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NRC SCHEDULES MEETING TO DISCUSS SAFETY PERFORMANCE OF WESTINGHOUSE NUCLEAR FUEL PLANT IN COLUMBIA

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with Westinghouse management in Columbia, S.C., on Wednesday, May 11 to discuss the results of a regulatory safety performance review at the company's commercial nuclear fuel fabrication plant.

The meeting will be held at 10 a.m. in the Red Room of the S.C. State Museum, 301 Gervais St. in Columbia. The meeting will be open to the public and media, and NRC officials will be available after the formal presentation to answer questions.

The NRC staff assessed performance at Westinghouse during a period beginning Feb. 14, 2009 and ending Dec. 31, 2010 in the areas of safety operations, safeguards, radiological controls, facility support and special topics (licensing).

The review concluded that Westinghouse continued to operate in a manner that protected public health and safety. However, the NRC determined that actions taken by the company to evaluate whether procedural adequacy and usage, training and knowledge management were contributing factors to regulatory violations identified during the 2009 review in the areas of safety operations and facility support were not fully effective.

The NRC said Westinghouse management must continue to evaluate any common causes underlying the violations during this review period and take appropriate action. The NRC will perform additional inspections in the areas needing improvement.

“The NRC continually reviews regulatory safety performance at Westinghouse and at each of the nation's other licensed nuclear facilities,” said Victor McCree, regional administrator of the NRC office in Atlanta. The meeting, he added, “is an opportunity for us to discuss safety performance with the company and with residents living near the plant who might be interested.”

A copy of the NRC letter to the company regarding the review is publicly available online in the NRC's Agencywide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS), www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html. The number to access the document is ML110660378.

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