NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC SCHEULES MEETING TO DISCUSS RESTART OF NFS PROCESS LINE

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has scheduled a public meeting for Tuesday, Aug. 16 to discuss the findings of its restart readiness assessment team that led to the decision last month to authorize restart of the uranium hexafluoride process at Nuclear Fuel Services in Erwin, Tenn.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. at the Erwin Town Hall, 211 North Main Ave., in Erwin. The public can observe the business part of the meeting and the NRC staff will then host a formal question and answer session.

All process lines at NFS were shut down in late December 2009, and the NRC issued a confirmatory action letter the next month that was designed to address issues that contributed to earlier events at the nuclear fuel processing facility.

After separate readiness reviews, process lines at NFS were authorized to restart, one at a time. The Navy Fuel line was authorized to restart in March 2010, the uranium metal/uranium oxide line was authorized in May 2010, and the uranium/aluminum line was cleared in July 2010. A fourth process, the ammonium diuranate line, was approved for restart in October 2010. The uranium hexafluoride process was the last of the NFS processes the company shut down in 2009.

Each of the readiness reviews, conducted by a team of NRC inspectors, was designed to provide reasonable assurance that performance deficiencies identified in 2009 were sufficiently addressed by NFS.

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