



NRC NEWS

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NRC SCHEDULES PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS NFS INSPECTION RESULTS

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled a public meeting in Erwin, Tenn., on Tuesday, March 2 to discuss the results of an Augmented Inspection Team review of an October incident at Nuclear Fuel Services.

The meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. in the Erwin Town Hall, 211 N. Main Ave. The meeting is open to the public and the NRC staff will be available to answer questions before and after the meeting.

On Oct. 13, 2009, during work on a Department of Energy project process line, a chemical reaction occurred during the dissolution of scrap material, resulting in unexpected levels of heat and the release of nitrogen compound gas fumes within the facility. The NRC dispatched a Special Inspection Team to the facility to investigate the incident and within days, escalated the effort by adding additional inspectors to form an Augmented Inspection Team. An AIT is the second highest level of NRC inspection response.

In January, NFS agreed to a number of commitments, including suspending operation of all process lines at the facility. The commitments were spelled out in a confirmatory action letter issued to NFS on Jan. 7. The NRC staff will schedule additional public meetings in Erwin to discuss the commitments in the letter and overall facility performance.

The announcement for the inspection exit meeting is available online at www.nrc.gov/public-involve/public-meetings/index.cfm. In addition, the inspection team will issue a publicly-available written report detailing its results within 30 days of the meeting.

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NOTE: Anyone wishing to take photos or use a camera to record any portion of a NRC meeting should contact the Office of Public Affairs beforehand.

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