



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs, Region II
61 Forsyth Street SW, Atlanta GA 30303
Web Site: www.nrc.gov

No. II-10-015

CONTACT: Roger Hannah (404) 562-4417
Joey Ledford (404) 562-4416

April 7, 2010

E-mail: OPA2@nrc.gov

NRC SCHEDULES OPEN HOUSE TO DISCUSS 2009 PERFORMANCE OF SURRY NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials have scheduled an open house Tuesday, April 13 to provide information on the agency's annual assessment of safety performance for the Surry nuclear power plant during 2009.

The open house is scheduled to run from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Surry Government Center, 45 School Street in Surry, Va., and it will allow people to learn about the plant's performance last year as well as NRC oversight and inspection.

The Surry plant, which has two pressurized-water reactors, is located near Surry, about 17 miles northwest of Newport News, Va. It is owned and operated by Dominion.

Overall, the NRC staff concluded that the Surry plant operated safely in 2009, and there were no inspection findings or performance indicators that would cause the NRC to increase its level of oversight and inspection. Based on the plant's performance, the NRC staff plans to continue the detailed routine or baseline inspections all nuclear power plants receive.

"Every year, the NRC evaluates the safety performance of nuclear plants in a systematic and detailed way. These reviews allow us to respond to ongoing issues, if needed, and to plan our future inspections," NRC Region II Administrator Luis Reyes said. "This open house gives local officials and citizens an opportunity to learn more about our oversight and is consistent with our commitment to openness and transparency."

The NRC uses color-coded inspection findings and performance indicators to assess plant performance. The colors start with "green," which has very low safety significance, to "white," "yellow" or "red," based on the significance of the issues. Inspection findings and performance indicators are updated on the NRC's web site (www.nrc.gov) each quarter.

The annual assessment letter for the Surry plant is available on the NRC web site at www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/sur_2009q4.pdf.

Routine inspections are carried out by the NRC resident inspectors assigned to the plant and by inspection specialists from the Region II office in Atlanta. Among the areas at the Surry

plant to be inspected this year by NRC specialists are potential gas accumulation in the emergency core cooling system, emergency preparedness, radiation protection and operator licensing exams.

Current performance information for Surry Unit 1 is available on the NRC web site at www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/SUR1/sur1_chart.html. Current performance information for Surry Unit 2 is available on the NRC web site at www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/SUR2/sur2_chart.html.

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