



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs, Region II
245 Peachtree Center Ave. NE, Suite 1200
Atlanta, GA 30303-1257
Web Site: www.nrc.gov

No. II-10-032

CONTACT: Roger Hannah (404) 997-4417
Joey Ledford (404) 997-4416

April 26, 2010

E-mail: OPA2@nrc.gov

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

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled an open house for Monday, May 3, and will be available to discuss and answer questions about the agency's assessment of safety performance during 2009 at the North Anna nuclear power plant. The plant, operated by Dominion, is on Lake Anna about 40 miles northwest of Richmond.

The open house is informal and scheduled to run from 5-7 p.m. at Louisa County Library, 881 Davis Highway, Mineral, Va. During the open house, NRC staff will be available to answer questions on the safety performance of the North Anna plant last year, as well as the NRC role in ensuring safe plant operation.

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

A letter sent from the NRC Region II office to plant officials addresses the performance of the plant during 2009 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/na_2009q4.pdf.

The NRC found that the North Anna plant's 2009 performance met all of the agency's safety objectives and 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 that are operating well. In addition, the agency will complete some generic inspections related to operator licensing examinations and reactor coolant system welds at North Anna in 2009.

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.

Current performance information for North Anna Unit 1 is available on the NRC web site at www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/NA1/na1_chart.html. Current performance information for Unit 2 is at www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/NA2/na2_chart.html.

###

News releases are available through a free *listserv* subscription at the following Web address: <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/listserver.html>. The NRC homepage at www.nrc.gov also offers a SUBSCRIBE link. E-mail notifications are sent to subscribers when news releases are posted to NRC's Web site.