



# NRC NEWS

## U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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No. II-10-038

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May 17, 2010

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### **NRC SCHEDULES MEETING TO DISCUSS 2009 PERFORMANCE OF BRUNSWICK NUCLEAR POWER PLANT**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled a meeting for Thursday, May 27, to discuss the agency's assessment of safety performance during 2009 at the Brunswick nuclear power plant. The plant, operated by Progress Energy, is on North Carolina's southeastern coast near Southport.

The meeting will begin with an informal open house and poster session at 5 p.m. During the open house, NRC staff will be available to answer questions on the safety performance of the Brunswick plant, as well as the NRC role in ensuring safe plant operation.

The open house is scheduled to run from 5-6:45 p.m. and will be followed by a brief presentation at 7 p.m. After the presentation, there will also be a question and answer session. The open house and presentation will be in the Brunswick Media Center Auditorium, 8520 River Road SE in Southport.

"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 Brunswick 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/bru\\_2009q4.pdf](http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/bru_2009q4.pdf).

The NRC found that the Brunswick plant overall operated safely during 2009. However, due to a "white" inspection finding involving the safe shutdown function of the emergency diesel generators, there will be a supplemental inspection in addition to the very detailed inspections required at all plants. Those inspections are conducted by NRC resident inspectors assigned to the site, supplemented by more specific inspections completed by region-

based NRC inspectors. In addition to these inspections, the agency plans some generic inspections at Brunswick this year including operator licensing examinations, managing gas accumulation in some safety systems and spent fuel storage installation pre-operational testing.

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](http://www.nrc.gov)) each quarter.

Current performance information for the Brunswick Unit 1 and 2 is available on the NRC web site at: [www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/BRU1/bru1\\_chart.html](http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/BRU1/bru1_chart.html) and [www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/BRU2/bru2\\_chart.html](http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/BRU2/bru2_chart.html).

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