



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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No. II-12-005

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March 29, 2012

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NRC SCHEDULES MEETING TO DISCUSS 2011 PERFORMANCE OF HARRIS NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled a meeting for Monday, April 9 to discuss the agency's assessment of safety performance during 2011 at the Harris nuclear power plant. The plant, operated by Progress Energy, is located near New Hill, N.C., about 20 miles southwest of Raleigh.

The meeting, which is open to the public, is scheduled to begin with an open house and poster session at 5:45 p.m. EDT at the Holly Springs Cultural Center, 300 West Ballentine Street in Holly Springs. At 7 p.m., the NRC staff will make a presentation and then be available to answer questions on the safety performance of the Harris plant, as well as the agency's role in ensuring safe plant operation.

"During 2011, our inspectors spent many hours ensuring that the Harris plant met NRC safety requirements and protected both people living near the plant and the overall environment," NRC Region II Administrator Victor McCree said.

NRC inspectors also looked at whether there were immediate safety concerns at Harris and other U.S. plants after the March events at the Fukushima Daiichi plant in Japan. Those reviews found that the plants remained safe.

A letter sent from the NRC Region II office to plant officials addresses the performance of the plant during 2011 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/har_2011q4.pdf.

The NRC found that the Harris plant's 2011 performance met all of the agency's safety objectives and was at a level that results in no additional NRC oversight. This year, the NRC plans to conduct the very detailed inspections required at those plants that are operating well.

All the inspection findings and performance indicators at the Harris plant during the most recent quarter had very low safety significance and were classified as "green."

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 the Harris plant is available on the NRC web site at www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/HAR1/har1_chart.html .

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