



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC TO DISCUSS 2007 PERFORMANCE OF WATTS BAR NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled a meeting for Monday, April 7, with representatives of the Tennessee Valley Authority to discuss the agency's assessment of safety performance during 2007 at the Watts Bar Nuclear Power Plant. The plant, operated by TVA, is about 10 miles south of Spring City, Tenn.

The meeting, which will be open to the public, is scheduled to begin at 2:00 p.m. in the plant's Training Center.

After the formal presentation, NRC staff will be available to answer questions from the public on the safety performance of Watts Bar Unit 1, as well as the NRC's role in ensuring safe plant operation. This meeting is for Unit 1 and will not address the NRC's oversight and inspection of construction activities at Watts Bar Unit 2.

"The NRC continually inspects and reviews the performance of Watts Bar and all commercial nuclear plants, issuing inspection reports throughout the year and an overall assessment at year's end," NRC Region II Administrator Victor McCree said. "This meeting is an opportunity to discuss that annual assessment with the company, local officials and people near the plant, and to answer any questions they may have."

The NRC said the Watts Bar plant operated safely during the 2007 assessment period, from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, with all inspection findings being of very low safety significance and all performance indicators indicating performance at levels requiring no additional NRC oversight. As a result, the NRC plans to conduct routine baseline inspections at the plant during 2008.

A letter sent from the NRC Region II office to plant officials addresses the performance of the plant during 2007 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/wb_2007q4.pdf.

Current performance information for the Watts Bar plant is available on the NRC web site at: www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/WB1/wb1_chart.html .

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