



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC TO DISCUSS 2007 PERFORMANCE OF VOGTLE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled a meeting for Thursday, April 24, with representatives of Southern Nuclear Operating Company to discuss the agency's assessment of safety performance during 2007 at the Vogtle nuclear plant, operated by the company south of Augusta near Waynesboro, Ga.

The meeting, which will be open to the public, is scheduled to begin at noon in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Burke County Courthouse, East 6th Street in Waynesboro.

After the formal presentation, NRC staff will be available to answer questions from the public on the safety performance of the Vogtle plant, as well as the NRC's role in ensuring safe plant operation.

"The NRC continually inspects and reviews the performance of Vogtle 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 our assessment with the company, local officials and people living near the plant, and to answer any questions they may have."

The NRC said although Vogtle operated safely during the 2007 assessment period, from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, both units were in the regulatory response column of the NRC Action Matrix due to the performance indicator for cooling water systems crossing the threshold from "green" to "white," and a "white" finding in the emergency response area. An inspection earlier this year identified no new concerns in emergency response and the NRC staff plans to conduct a supplemental inspection in the cooling water systems area this year in addition to the routine baseline inspections at the plant.

When assessing nuclear plant performance, the NRC uses color-coded performance indicators and inspection findings. The colors start with "green" and then increase to "white," "yellow" or "red" based on the safety significance of the issues involved.

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/vog_2007q4.pdf .

Current performance information for the two units at the Vogtle plant is available on the NRC web site at: www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/VOG1/vog1_chart.html and www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/VOG2/vog2_chart.html .

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