



NRC NEWS

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, REGION II

61 Forsyth Street SW, Atlanta GA 30303

Web Site: www.nrc.gov

No. II-07-015

CONTACT: Ken Clark (404)562-4416
Roger Hannah (404)562-4417

April 11, 2007

E-mail: OPA2@nrc.gov

NRC TO DISCUSS 2006 PERFORMANCE AT CRYSTAL RIVER NUCLEAR PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff is scheduled to meet with Progress Energy officials on Wednesday, April 18, to discuss the NRC's annual assessment of safety performance for 2006 at the Crystal River nuclear power plant, located on the west coast of Florida near Crystal River.

The meeting, which is open to the public, is scheduled to begin at 1:00 p.m. in the Crystal River Nuclear Operations Training Facility, 8200 West Venable Street in Crystal River. The NRC staff will present the results of the assessment and be available to respond to questions or comments from the public before the close of the meeting.

"The NRC continually reviews the performance of the Crystal River plant and the nation's other commercial nuclear power facilities," NRC Region II Administrator William Travers said. "This meeting is a chance for us to discuss that safety performance with the company, with local officials and with people living near the plant."

A letter sent from the NRC Region II Office to plant officials addresses the performance of the plant during the period 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/cr_2006q4.pdf.

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

The NRC said the Crystal River plant operated safely during 2006. Plant performance for the first two quarters of the assessment period required increased NRC inspection effort due to a White finding of low to moderate safety significance involving unprotected safe shutdown cables intended for use after a fire and related manual operator actions during such a circumstance found not to be feasible. The company took corrective action, and a subsequent NRC inspection identified no findings of significance.

Plant performance for the fourth quarter of 2006 was classified as Green (of very low safety significance) and, as a result, the NRC plans to conduct only routine baseline inspections at the plant during 2007 and will perform a non-routine inspection of a generic concern at pressurized water reactors related to possible blockage of containment building sumps.

Routine inspections are performed by NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant and by specialists from the Region II Office in Atlanta, and the agency's headquarters in Rockville, Md.

Current information for the Crystal River plant is available on the NRC web site at:
www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/CR3/cr3_chart.html .

###