



NRC NEWS

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC TO DISCUSS 2006 PERFORMANCE AT WATERFORD 3 NUCLEAR PLANT MAY 17

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet on May 17, with representatives of Entergy Operations, Inc., to discuss the agency's assessment of safety performance last year at the Waterford 3 nuclear plant near New Orleans, La.

The meeting, which will be open to the public, is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Entergy Education Center, 4224 Highway 3127, Killona, La. The NRC staff will be available to answer questions from the public on the safety performance of Waterford 3, as well as the NRC's role in ensuring safe plant operation before the end of the meeting.

"The NRC continually reviews the performance of Waterford 3 and the nation's other commercial nuclear power facilities," NRC Region IV Administrator Bruce S. Mallett said. "This meeting will provide an opportunity for a discussion of our annual assessment of safety performance with the company and with local officials and residents who live near the plant."

A letter sent from the NRC Region IV office to plant officials addresses the performance of the plant during 2006 and will serve as the basis for the meeting discussion. It is available on the NRC web site at:

http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/wat_2006q4.pdf.

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

The NRC said Waterford 3 operated safely during 2006 and will receive baseline, or routine inspections, during 2007.

Routine inspections are performed by two NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant and by inspection specialists from the Region IV Office in Arlington, Texas. Among the areas of plant performance to be inspected this year by NRC specialists are activities associated with engineering, fire protection, emergency preparedness, maintenance and radiological controls.

Current performance information for Waterford 3 is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/WAT3/wat3_chart.html.

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