



NRC NEWS

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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No. IV-07-020
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June 18, 2007
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NRC TO DISCUSS 2006 PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FOR COOPER NUCLEAR STATION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet in Brownville, Neb., on June 21, with representatives of the Nebraska Public Power District to discuss the agency's assessment of safety performance for last year at the Cooper Nuclear Station.

The meeting, which will be open to the public, is scheduled to begin at 4 p.m. at the Brownville Concert Hall, Atlantic Avenue and Second Street.

In addition to the performance assessment, the NRC staff will be available to answer questions from the public on the safety performance of Cooper, as well as the NRC's role in ensuring safe plant operation.

"The NRC continually reviews the performance of Cooper 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/cns_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 Cooper operated safely during 2006, but identified 10 “green” inspection findings in the area of human performance during the assessment period. In order to address this substantive cross-cutting issue, the licensee has implemented an improvement plan, but it has not yet proven fully effective. NRC will continue to focus attention on this area as part of its baseline inspections during 2007.

Routine inspections are performed by NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant and by inspection specialists from the Region IV Office in Arlington, Texas.

Current performance information for Cooper is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/CNS/cns_chart.html .

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