



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC TO DISCUSS 2004 PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FOR DUANE ARNOLD NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with representatives of Nuclear Management Company on Monday, May 9, to discuss the agency's assessment of safety performance last year at the Duane Arnold Nuclear Power Plant. The plant is located near Palo, IA.

The meeting, which will be open to public observation, is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. at the Palo Community Center, 1006 1st Street, Palo.

Before the meeting is adjourned, NRC staff will be available to answer questions from the public on the safety performance of the Duane Arnold plant, as well as the role of the NRC in ensuring safe plant operation.

"The NRC continually reviews the performance of the Duane Arnold plant and the nation's other commercial nuclear power facilities," NRC Region III Administrator James Caldwell 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. Our goal is to explain the NRC oversight process and make as much information as possible available to the public regarding our regulation of these facilities."

The NRC's assessment concluded that the Duane Arnold plant operated safely during the period. 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," commensurate with the safety significance of the issues involved.

All of the inspection findings and performance indicators for Duane Arnold during 2004 were determined to be "green." As a result of this performance, the NRC will conduct the normal, baseline level of inspections during the upcoming year.

Routine inspections are performed by two NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant and by inspection specialists from the Region III Office in Lisle, Ill., and the agency's headquarters in Rockville, Md. Among the areas of plant operations to be inspected this year by NRC specialists are modifications, fire protection, gaseous and liquid effluents and access control.

A letter sent from the NRC Region III 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: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/duan_2004q4.pdf.

Current performance information for Duane Arnold is available on the NRC's web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/DUAN/duan_chart.html.

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