



U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, REGION IV

> 611 Ryan Plaza Drive - Suite 400 Arlington TX 76011-8064 Website: www.nrc.gov

> > January 17, 2002

No. IV-02-001 CONTACT: Breck Henderson Phone: 817-860-8128 Cellular: 817-917-1227 e-mail: Opa4@nrc.gov

## NRC STAFF TO HOLD REGULATORY CONFERENCE WITH TXU ELECTRIC

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold a regulatory conference with officials of TXU Electric, operator of the Comanche Peak nuclear power plant near Glen Rose, Texas, on Wednesday, January 23.

The meeting, which is open to public observation, will begin at 1 p.m. in NRC Region IV offices in Arlington, Texas. NRC officials in Arlington will be available after the meeting to answer questions.

Conferees will discuss an inspection finding with a preliminary significance determination of "white" involving the performance of checks for radioactivity on low-level waste items before they are released from certain areas designated as "radiologically controlled areas." The items released were clothing and maintenance equipment.

A "white" finding is defined as a regulatory problem with low to moderate safety significance. The NRC evaluates regulatory performance at commercial nuclear power plants with a color coded significance determination process which classifies regulatory findings as being in one of four color categories: green, white, yellow, or red in increasing order of safety significance.

Not performing proper checks for radioactivity before release of items from radiologically controlled areas is an apparent violation of NRC requirements that is related to this preliminary "white" finding. The apparent violation is being considered for enforcement action. No decision on the apparent violation, any enforcement action, or the final significance determination of the inspection finding will be made at the conference. Those decisions will be made later by NRC officials.