



NRC NEWS

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC TO HOLD REGULATORY CONFERENCE WITH ENTERGY OPERATIONS, INC.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold a regulatory conference with officials of Entergy Operations, Inc., operator of Arkansas Nuclear One, on Thursday, July 10. Conferees will discuss the significance of an inspection finding involving a fire protection issue. The facility, which includes two operating reactors, is located near Russellville, Arkansas.

The meeting, which is open to public observation, will begin at 9 a.m. in NRC Region IV offices in Arlington, Texas. The public will have the opportunity to ask questions of the NRC staff before the meeting is adjourned.

The NRC will discuss with Entergy officials the inspection finding and an associated apparent violation of NRC requirements for fire protection. The finding was identified in an inspection completed on July 13, 2001. It concerns the acceptability of the licensee's use of manual operator actions to operate equipment necessary for achieving and maintaining the hot shutdown of the plant remotely, in lieu of providing protection from fire damage for electrical cables necessary to ensure the operability of that equipment.

The NRC evaluates regulatory performance at commercial nuclear power plants with a color coded process which classifies regulatory findings as either green, white, yellow or red, in increasing order of safety significance.

Remote public observation of the meeting will be allowed from the NRC's headquarters in Rockville, Maryland, at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, 3rd floor, Room B-4. Interested observers should contact meeting coordinator, Tom Alexion, at (301) 415-1347, indicating their intention to attend, so that adequate copies of meeting materials are available and arrangements for a security escort to the meeting room can be made..

No decision on the final significance, the apparent violation or any contemplated enforcement action will be made at the conference. Those decisions will be made by NRC officials at a later time.

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