NRC NEWS

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
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NRC TO MEET WITH DUKE ENERGY OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS SAFETY PERFORMANCE AT McGUIRE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with Duke Energy officials on Thursday, April 15, to discuss the results of NRC's annual assessment of safety performance at the McGuire nuclear power plant near Huntersville, North Carolina.

The meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m in the Office Complex Building at the McGuire Nuclear Station, located at 12700 Hagers Ferry Road near Huntersville. The public is invited to observe the meeting, and NRC officials will be available before the conclusion of the meeting to answer any questions.

The NRC said both McGuire reactors were operated safely and met all objectives during the evaluation period which covered the calendar year 2003. As a result, the NRC plans to conduct only routine inspections at the McGuire plant in 2004. A letter from the NRC to Duke Energy outlining the results of the most recent evaluation is available from Region II Public Affairs and on the NRC web site at www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/mcg_2003q4.pdf .

 The NRC staff will also conduct inspections this year at McGuire (not specifically related to the plant's performance) related to operator licensing examinations, routine inspections of the plant's spent nuclear fuel storage installation, and safety issues concerning reactor pressure vessel lower head penetration nozzles and the reactor containment sump.

The agency will also continue to monitor plant actions in response to NRC security orders and any newly developed portions of the plant security program.

Current performance indicators for the two units at the McGuire plant are available at www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/MCG1/mcg1_chart.html and www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/MCG2/mcg2_chart.html .

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