

NRC NEWS

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, REGION II

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No. II-04-038 May 7, 2004

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NRC SCHEDULES REGULATORY CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS INSPECTION FINDING AT BRUNSWICK NUCLEAR PLANT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission will hold a regulatory conference with officials of Progress Energy on Wednesday, May 19, in Atlanta to discuss a preliminary NRC inspection finding of ineffective corrective actions concerning an emergency diesel generator problem on Unit 2 of the Brunswick nuclear power plant near Southport, North Carolina.

The NRC staff and Progress Energy officials will discuss the safety significance of the finding related specifically to corrective actions for a leak in the diesel generator's cooling water system. Emergency diesel generators at nuclear plants would be used to provide emergency power should the normal power supply from offsite not be available. Progress Energy requested the conference to discuss the company's evaluation of the safety significance of the NRC's preliminary finding.

The meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m. in the NRC's Region II office in Atlanta, located in the Atlanta Federal Center at 61 Forsyth Street, SW, Suite 24T20. The public can observe the meeting, and NRC officials will be available before its conclusion to answer any questions.

The NRC evaluates regulatory performance at commercial nuclear power plants with a color-coded process which classifies inspection findings as either green, white, yellow or red, in increasing order of safety significance. The NRC's preliminary evaluation has determined that the safety significance of this issue is white, meaning that it is considered to be of low to moderate safety significance.

No final decision on the safety significance, any apparent violation or any contemplated enforcement action will be made during the conference. NRC officials will make those decisions at a later time and that information will be available on the NRC's web site at www.nrc.gov.

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