



NRC NEWS

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

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NRC TO DISCUSS 2004 PERFORMANCE AT VOGTLE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff are scheduled to meet with Southern Nuclear Operating Company officials April 12 to discuss the NRC's annual assessment of safety performance at the Vogtle nuclear power plant, located near Waynesboro, Ga. The period covered is the calendar year 2004.

The 1:00 p.m. meeting at the Burke County Courthouse in Waynesboro is open to public observation. Before the meeting ends, NRC staff will be available to answer public questions on the plant's safety performance, as well as the agency's role in ensuring safe operation of the facility.

"Each year the NRC staff rates the performance of the Vogtle plant and all of the nation's other commercial nuclear power plants," NRC Region II Administrator William Travers said. "This meeting gives us a chance to discuss our assessment with the company, with local officials and with residents near the plant. Our aim is to make this information available to the public and answer any questions people may have about our oversight."

Overall, the Vogtle plant operated safely during 2004. The NRC uses color-coded inspection findings and performance indicators to assess nuclear plant performance. The colors start with "green" and increase to "white," "yellow" or "red," commensurate with the safety significance of the issues involved. The Vogtle plant had nothing classified beyond "green" during 2004. Based on these results and overall performance, Vogtle will receive the baseline, or normal, level of inspections during 2005. The NRC also plans a non-routine inspection of pressurizer penetration nozzles at the plant.

A letter sent from the NRC Region II 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 www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/vog_2004q4.pdf.

Routine inspections are performed by NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant and by inspection specialists from the Region II Office in Atlanta, and the agency's headquarters in Rockville, Md.

Current information for the Vogtle plant is available on the NRC web site at: www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/VOG1/vog1_chart.html and www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/VOG2/vog2_chart.html.

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