



NRC NEWS

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NRC to Discuss 2006 Performance at South Texas Nuclear Plant

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet in Bay City, Texas, on June 14, with representatives of South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Co., to discuss the agency's assessment of safety performance last year at the South Texas Project nuclear plant near Bay City, Texas.

The meeting, which will be open to the public, is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. at the Bay City Civic Center, 201 Seventh St., Bay City.

In addition to the performance assessment, the NRC staff will be available to answer questions from the public on the safety performance of South Texas Project, as well as the NRC's role in ensuring safe plant operation.

"The NRC continually reviews the performance of South Texas Project and the nation's other commercial nuclear power facilities," NRC Region IV Administrator Bruce S. Mallett said. "This meeting will provide an opportunity for a discussion of our annual assessment of safety performance with the company and with local officials and residents who live near the plant."

A letter sent from the NRC Region IV office to plant officials addresses the performance of the plant during 2006 and will serve as the basis for the meeting discussion. It is available on the NRC web site at:

http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/stp_2006q4.pdf.

The NRC utilizes color-coded inspection findings and performance indicators to assess nuclear power plant performance. The colors start with "green" and then increase to "white," "yellow" or "red," commensurate with the safety significance of the issues involved.

The NRC said South Texas Project operated safely during 2006, but during the last quarter of 2006 was in the NRC's regulatory response column based on a "white" performance indicator because of a problem with an emergency power system at Unit 2. A subsequent inspection indicated the licensee had successfully addressed the issue.

Routine inspections are performed by two NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant and by inspection specialists from the Region IV Office in Arlington, Texas. Among the areas of plant performance to be inspected this year by NRC specialists are activities associated with engineering, fire protection, emergency preparedness, maintenance and radiological controls.

Current performance information for South Texas Project Unit 1 is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/STP1/stp1_chart.html and at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/STP2/stp2_chart.html for Unit 2.

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