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CONTACT: Roger Hannah 404-997-4417
Joey Ledford 404-997-4416

NRC Schedules Conference with Duke Energy to Discuss Brunswick Plant Flooding Issue

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled a regulatory conference with officials of Duke Energy for May 12 in Atlanta to discuss two apparent violations associated with flood protection, corrective actions and reporting of potential flood-related impacts at the company's Brunswick plant.

The Brunswick plant is located about 30 miles south of Wilmington near Southport, N.C.

The NRC and Duke will discuss the safety significance of the issue, which involved the failure to promptly identify and correct conditions which may have impacted safety-related equipment during certain severe hurricane conditions. Specifically, some buildings were found to contain openings which might have allowed water to come in, including one opening that could have affected nine of the 10 safety-related service water pumps on Unit 2.

The meeting will begin at 1 p.m. in the NRC's Region II office in Atlanta, located at 245 Peachtree Center Ave., NE. The meeting is open to the public and visitors should check in at the security desk on the 8th floor. NRC officials will be available after the business portion of the meeting to answer any questions.

The NRC evaluates regulatory performance at commercial nuclear power plants with a color-coded process which classifies inspection findings and performance indicators as green, white, yellow or red, in increasing order of safety significance. The NRC's preliminary evaluation has determined that the safety significance of the flooding issue at the Brunswick plant 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.