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NRC TO MEET WITH SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS SAFETY PERFORMANCE AT FARLEY NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with Southern Nuclear Operating Company officials on Thursday, March 27, to discuss the results of NRC's annual assessment of safety performance at the Farley nuclear power plant near Dothan, Alabama.

The meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. at the Houston County Administration Building, 3rd Floor, County Commissioners' Chambers, 462 North Oats Street, in Dothan. The public is invited to observe the meeting, and NRC officials will be available before the conclusion of the meeting to answer any questions.

A letter from the NRC to Southern Nuclear addresses plant safety performance during the previous year and forms the basis for the meeting discussions. The letter states that, overall, Farley operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and that plant performance was at a level requiring no additional NRC inspection beyond normal baseline activities. The letter is available from Region II Public Affairs and on the NRC web site at www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/far_2002q4.pdf. It says the NRC staff will review activities at Farley in response to a 2002 NRC Bulletin on reactor pressure vessel head and vessel head nozzle penetration programs and continue inspections of the plant's implementation of NRC security advisories and Orders to evaluate compliance with new requirements that may be ordered. It also says that a security exercise, postponed due to terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, will be rescheduled at the next available opportunity.

Current performance indicators for the two units at the Farley plant are available at www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/FAR1/far1_chart.html and www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/FAR2/far2_chart.html

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