



# NRC NEWS

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

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## NRC TO DISCUSS 2004 PERFORMANCE AT WATTS BAR NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff is scheduled to meet with Tennessee Valley Authority officials April 18 to discuss the NRC's annual assessment of safety performance at the Watts Bar nuclear power plant, located near Spring City, Tenn. The period covered is the calendar year 2004.

The 3:00 p.m. meeting at the Watts Bar Training Center near the plant 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 Watts Bar 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 Watts Bar plant operated safely during 2004. The NRC uses color-coded inspection findings and performance indicators to assess performance. The colors start with "green" and increase to "white," "yellow" or "red," commensurate with the safety significance of the issues involved.

Based on the plant's performance during 2004, Watts Bar will receive the baseline, or normal, level of inspections during 2005. The NRC also plans to conduct non-routine inspections of the plant's preparations for steam generator replacement.

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/wb\\_2004q4.pdf](http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/wb_2004q4.pdf).

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

Current information for the Watts Bar plant is available on the NRC web site at: [www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/WB1/wb1\\_chart.html](http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/WB1/wb1_chart.html).

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