



NRC NEWS

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC TO DISCUSS 2004 PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FOR CALLAWAY NUCLEAR PLANT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with representatives of Union Electric Co. on April 21 to discuss the results of the agency's assessment of safety performance at the Callaway nuclear plant during 2004. The plant is located near Jefferson City, Mo.

The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Capitol Plaza Hotel and Convention Center, 415 West McCarty Street, Jefferson City. Before the session is adjourned, NRC staff will be available to answer questions from the public 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 evaluates the performance of each of the nation's commercial nuclear plants," said Region IV Administrator Bruce S. Mallett. "This meeting gives us a chance to discuss our assessment with the company, local officials and residents near the plant. We want to make this information available to the public and answer any questions people may have about the plant."

Overall, Callaway 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" and "red," according to the safety significance of the issues involved.

According to the assessment, the number of unplanned reactor shutdowns exceeded a performance threshold during the first quarter of 2004. A supplemental inspection last November concluded that the company had successfully evaluated the associated conditions and events.

Additionally, the NRC staff has identified deficiencies in the area of human performance where failure to follow plant procedures resulted in increased challenges to plant equipment

from preventable transients and operating events. As part of its baseline, or routine inspection program, the NRC staff intends to focus attention on this area during 2005.

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

A letter sent from the NRC Region IV Office in Arlington, Texas, to plant officials will serve as the basis for the meeting. It is available on the NRC web site at:
http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/call_2004q4.pdf

Current information for Callaway is available on the NRC web site at:
http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/CALL/call_chart.html .

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