



NRC NEWS

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NRC SCHEDULES REGULATORY CONFERENCE WITH DUKE ENERGY TO DISCUSS MCGUIRE NUCLEAR PLANT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has scheduled a regulatory conference with officials of Duke Energy on Thursday, September 18, in Atlanta to discuss an inspection finding at the McGuire nuclear power plant, located about 17 miles north of Charlotte, N.C. near the town of Huntersville.

NRC and Duke Energy officials will discuss the significance of an inspection finding related to the apparent failure to take adequate corrective action on a service water strainer backwash system. The service water system takes water from Lake Norman. That water is used to cool components within the plant and then the water, which is not radioactive, is returned to the lake. The strainers remove debris in the water before it reaches the plant's service water pumps. The backwash system washes debris from the strainers to keep them from clogging.

The NRC evaluates regulatory performance at commercial nuclear power plants with a color-coded system which classifies findings as green, white, yellow or red, in increasing order of safety significance. The NRC's preliminary evaluation determined that this issue at McGuire is "greater than green," meaning it has more than very low safety significance.

No decisions on the final safety significance, any apparent violations or possible enforcement action will be made at the conference. Those decisions will be made by NRC officials at a later time.

The regulatory conference is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. in the NRC's Region II office, located on the 24th floor of the Atlanta Federal Center at 61 Forsyth Street SW in Atlanta. The public is invited to observe and will have an opportunity to talk with NRC officials after the business portion, but before the meeting is over. Persons wishing to participate in this meeting by toll-free audio teleconference should contact the NRC's Steven Rose at 404-562-4647 or steven.rose@nrc.gov.

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