



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS 2009 PERFORMANCE OF WOLF CREEK

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold a public meeting in New Strawn, Kan., on Tuesday, May 11, to provide information on the agency's 2009 assessment of the safety performance for the Wolf Creek Generating Station. Located three miles north of Burlington, the plant is operated by Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corp.

The public meeting between the NRC staff and Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corp officials will begin at 6 p.m. at the New Strawn Community Center, 319 Getz Street, New Strawn, Kan. Prior to the meeting's adjournment, there will be an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions of the NRC staff regarding the plant's performance, as well as the agency's oversight of the facility.

"The NRC continually reviews the performance of Wolf Creek and the nation's other commercial nuclear power facilities," said NRC Region IV Administrator Elmo E. Collins. "This meeting will provide an opportunity for a discussion of our annual assessment of safety performance with the company as well as local officials and residents who live near the plant."

A letter sent from the NRC Region IV office to plant officials addresses the performance of the plant during 2009 and will serve as the basis for the meeting discussion. It is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/wc_2009q4.pdf.

Although Wolf Creek operated in a manner that protected public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives, NRC inspections have continued to identify issues involving inadequate problem evaluation. For the fourth consecutive assessment cycle, a substantive cross-cutting issue involving problem identification and resolution has been identified. The licensee's inability to address this issue warrants the NRC's increased attention. As a result, the NRC will focus its inspections on this area to determine if the licensee's corrective actions result in improved performance.

The licensee performed a safety culture assessment in March 2010. At the public meeting, the NRC has requested that the licensee share insights gained from this assessment and discuss their plans to address the continuing challenges in the area of problem identification and resolution.

Inspections are performed by NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant and by inspection specialists from the Region IV Office in Arlington, Texas.

Current performance information for Wolf Creek is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/WC/wc_chart.html.

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