



NRC NEWS

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NRC SCHEDULES MEETING TO DISCUSS REVIEW OF HONEYWELL CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled a public meeting for April 23 at its headquarters in Rockville, Md., to discuss the review of a corrective action plan developed by Honeywell to modify its Metropolis Works plant to meet NRC requirements.

The NRC issued a Confirmatory Order to Honeywell in October 2012 outlining actions the company must take before it can resume its uranium conversion operations at the Metropolis, Ill. facility. The NRC concluded following an inspection in May 2012 that process equipment in the facility lacks seismic restraints, support and bracing needed to assure integrity during a significant earthquake or tornado.

Specifically, the inspection determined that the amount of uranium hexafluoride that could be released into the environment should the process equipment be damaged by such an event could be significantly larger than previously assumed. The material that could be released poses more of a chemical hazard than a radiation hazard. There is no current safety concern since the facility has been shut down since May.

The meeting is scheduled to run from 3 to 5 p.m. EST in room O-7B4 at the NRC's One White Flint North building located at 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Md. The public is invited to observe this meeting and will have the opportunity to communicate with the NRC staff after the business portion, but before the meeting is adjourned.

The NRC has set up a toll-free telephone bridge line for members of the public who are unable to attend in person (Conference line 888-323-8904, passcode 60232#).

The Honeywell plant takes milled uranium and converts it into uranium hexafluoride gas which is then enriched at other facilities to make fuel for commercial power reactors.

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