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CONTACT: Roger Hannah 404-997-4417
Joey Ledford 404-997-4416

NRC Schedules Regulatory Conference to Discuss Apparent Violation at Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has scheduled a regulatory conference with the Tennessee Valley Authority to discuss the risk significance of an apparent violation related to the failure to properly implement a plant operating procedure at Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant.

Browns Ferry, operated by the TVA, is located near Athens, Ala., about 32 miles west of Huntsville.

The conference is scheduled for Wednesday, July 24 at 1 p.m. EDT at the NRC's Region 2 offices, 245 Peachtree Center Ave., NE, Suite 1200, in Atlanta. The public is invited to attend, and NRC officials will answer questions from the public after the business portion of the conference is completed.

NRC and TVA officials will discuss the risk significance of the apparent violation, which occurred on Dec. 22, 2012. TVA plant staff failed to properly implement a procedure while restoring power to the Unit 2 reactor protection system. The failure caused the reactor to shut down and also caused the main steam isolation valves to close. The main steam isolation valves are designed to close in the unlikely event of a rupture in the plant's steam pipes.

Even though the unit was safely shut down and there was no threat to workers or people living near the plant, the NRC has preliminarily determined that the finding is white, meaning it has low to moderate safety significance.

The NRC uses color-coded inspection finding to assess plant performance. The colors range from green, or very low safety significance, to white, yellow and red, which has the highest safety significance.

No decision on the final safety significance and any additional NRC actions will be made at the conference. That decision will be announced at a later time.

The NRC [inspection report](#) with more details on the apparent violation is available on the NRC website.