

No: II-15-043

November 10, 2015

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NRC Schedules Meeting in Metropolis to Discuss Inspection of Honeywell Event

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled a public meeting in Metropolis, Ill., for Nov. 19 to discuss the agency's inspection findings related to an August event at the Honeywell uranium conversion plant in Metropolis.

On Aug. 1, the facility experienced a uranium hexafluoride leak during maintenance activities and declared an Alert, the lower of the NRC's two emergency classification levels for fuel facilities. The event prompted the NRC to launch a special inspection and the results of that inspection will be the focus of the meeting.

No one was injured and the NRC inspection confirmed that no members of the public were exposed to the material. However, the NRC considers any release of uranium hexafluoride a potentially serious event, and the special inspection looked at the sequence of events, the company's response, and information about the material including the performance of the plant's detection and sampling systems. The NRC inspectors also reviewed any corrective actions the company has taken or is planning to take.

The Nov. 19 meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. local time in the Community Center located at 900 West 10th Street in Metropolis. After the NRC staff presents the results of the inspection, they will be available to answer questions about the inspection or other aspects of the agency's regulatory oversight of the facility.