



NRC NEWS

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NRC SCHEDULES TWO MEETINGS TO DISCUSS NFS NUCLEAR FUEL PLANT PERFORMANCE

Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials will meet with officials of Nuclear Fuel Services, in Erwin, Tennessee, on Monday, September 17, to discuss the agency's latest review of the facility's safety performance and an overview of the facility's performance since 2004. Although the last NRC meeting on NFS which was open to the public was held in April 2004, a recent change in NRC policy will now allow members of the public to attend.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 2:30 p.m. at the NFS Training Center in Erwin. The meeting is open to observation by the public, and NRC officials will be available prior to its conclusion to answer questions from interested observers. The NRC will also host a one-hour information poster session before the meeting at 1:30. The posters will include information about previous reviews and events that had not been available since 2004. NRC staff members will be on hand during that time to answer questions about NRC oversight and inspection of NFS.

On Monday evening, the NRC will host a similar poster session at 6:00 p.m. at the Erwin City Hall to allow those people who might not be able to attend the earlier meeting an opportunity to come learn more. NRC staff members will also be available during the evening session to address questions.

In a letter to NFS on August 31, NRC Region II Administrator said that NFS "continued to maintain safety and security for its workers and the public." Although the letter said there were fewer NRC-identified violations during the current assessment period than there had been during the previous two periods, NFS did not start or expand any new commercial operations during the period so there were fewer opportunities for the NRC "to adequately evaluate the effectiveness of your efforts to improve performance."

The NRC evaluated facility performance in five areas: safety operations, radiological controls, facility support, special topics (licensing activities) and safeguards. The NRC review found areas needing improvement in the facility support area, specifically related to the development of and adherence to approved procedures.

The NRC plans to continue monitoring NFS beyond the core inspection program, and may conduct the next review before the end of the normal 12-month period.

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