



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC TO DISCUSS 2007 PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FOR SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet in San Clemente, Ca., on July 31, with representatives of Southern California Edison Co., to discuss the agency's assessment of safety performance for last year at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station.

The meeting, which will be open to the public, is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Country Plaza Inn, 35 Via Pico Plaza, San Clemente.

In addition to the performance assessment, the NRC staff will be available to answer questions from the public on the safety performance of San Onofre, as well as the NRC's role in ensuring safe plant operation.

"The NRC continually reviews the performance of San Onofre and the nation's other commercial nuclear power facilities," NRC Region IV Administrator Elmo E. Collins said. "This meeting will provide an opportunity for a discussion of our annual assessment of safety performance with the company and with 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 2007 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/sano_2007q4.pdf.

The NRC utilizes color-coded inspection findings and performance indicators to assess nuclear power plant performance. The colors start with "green" and then increase to "white," "yellow" or "red," commensurate with the safety significance of the issues involved.

The NRC said San Onofre operated safely during 2007 and will receive regular, or baseline inspections during 2007. However, the NRC staff identified nine inspection findings with very low safety significance tied to human performance issues last year and eight inspection findings with very low safety significance tied to problem identification and resolution. The NRC

staff will monitor the licensee's attempts to address deficiencies in this area through regular inspections.

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

Current performance information for San Onofre Unit 2 is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/SANO2/sano2_chart.html. Current performance information for Unit 3 is available at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/SANO3/sano3_chart.html.

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