



NRC NEWS

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NRC SCHEDULES OPEN HOUSE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ON 2008 PERFORMANCE OF CATAWBA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled an open house for Monday, May 4, and will be available to discuss and answer questions about the agency's assessment of safety performance during 2008 at the Catawba nuclear power plant. The plant, operated by Duke Energy, is near Rock Hill, S.C. and southwest of Charlotte, N.C.

The open house is informal and scheduled from 6-8 p.m. in the Rock Hill City Hall Rotunda, 155 Johnson St. in Rock Hill.

NRC staff will be available to answer questions on the safety performance of the Catawba plant, as well as the NRC role in ensuring safe plant operation.

"Throughout the year, we inspect and review the performance of the Catawba plant and all commercial nuclear plants," NRC Region II Administrator Luis Reyes said. "We issue several inspection reports during the year and an overall annual assessment. This open house allows us to discuss that assessment with local officials and people near the plant, and answer any questions they may have."

A letter sent from the NRC Region II office to plant officials addresses the performance of the plant during 2008 and will serve as the basis for the meeting discussion. It is available on the NRC web site at: www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/cat_2008q4.pdf.

The NRC found that the Catawba plant met all NRC safety objectives during 2008, and performance at the plant was at a level that resulted in no additional NRC oversight.

This year, the NRC plans to continue to conduct the very detailed inspections required at those plants operating well. Those inspections are by NRC resident inspectors assigned to the site supplemented by more specific inspections completed by region-based NRC inspectors. In addition to the detailed routine inspections, the agency will complete some generic inspections ranging from operator licensing examinations to emergency response to ground water protection at Catawba in 2009.

Current performance information for Catawba Unit 1 is available on the NRC web site at: www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/CAT1/cat1_chart.html. Current performance information for Unit 2 is at: www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/CAT2/cat2_chart.html.

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