



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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No. II-09-028

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April 27, 2009

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

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled an open house for Tuesday, May 5, and will be available to discuss and answer questions about the agency's assessment of safety performance during 2008 at the McGuire nuclear power plant. The plant, operated by Duke Energy, is near Huntersville, N.C. about 17 miles north of Charlotte.

The open house is informal and scheduled from 6-8 p.m. in the McGuire plant's Office Complex Auditorium, 12700 Hagers Ferry Road in Huntersville.

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

"Throughout the year, we inspect and review the performance of the McGuire 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/mcg_2008q4.pdf.

The NRC found that the McGuire plant met all NRC safety objectives during 2008, and performance at the plant was at a level that resulted in no additional NRC oversight during the first half of the year. However, an issue with inadequate corrective actions on a service water backwash system identified in the third quarter of 2008 placed the plant under increased NRC oversight including a supplemental inspection currently planned for this fall.

In addition to the supplemental inspection, 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 such as operator licensing examinations, emergency response, spent fuel storage and ground water protection at McGuire in 2009.

Current performance information for McGuire Unit 1 is available on the NRC web site at: www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/MCG1/mcg1_chart.html. Current information for Unit 2 is at: www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/MCG2/mcg2_chart.html.

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