



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs, Region II
Marquis One Tower
245 Peachtree Center Ave., NE Suite 1200
Atlanta, GA 30303-1257
Web Site: www.nrc.gov

No. II-10-024

CONTACT: Roger Hannah (404) 977-4417
Joey Ledford (404) 977-4416

April 12, 2010

E-mail: OPA2@nrc.gov

NRC SCHEDULES OPEN HOUSE TO DISCUSS 2009 PERFORMANCE OF MCGUIRE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials have scheduled an open house Thursday, April 22 to provide information on the agency's annual assessment of safety performance for the McGuire nuclear power plant during 2009.

The open house is scheduled to run from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Energy Explorium near the McGuire site at 13339 Hagers Ferry Road in Huntersville, N.C. The open house will provide an opportunity for the public to learn about the plant's performance last year as well as NRC oversight and inspection.

The McGuire plant, which has two pressurized-water reactors, is located near Huntersville, 17 miles north of Charlotte. It is owned and operated by Duke Energy.

Overall, the NRC staff concluded that the McGuire plant operated safely in 2009, but the facility has seen increased NRC oversight due to an inspection finding in the second half of 2008 related to a strainer backwash system. Based on the plant's performance, the NRC staff plans to continue the detailed routine or baseline inspections all nuclear power plants receive and has recently completed an inspection on the backwash system issue.

"Every year, the NRC evaluates the safety performance of nuclear plants in a systematic and detailed way. These reviews allow us to respond to ongoing issues, if needed, and to plan our future inspections," NRC Region II Administrator Luis Reyes said. "This open house gives local officials and citizens an opportunity to learn more about our oversight and is consistent with our commitment to openness and transparency."

The NRC uses color-coded inspection findings and performance indicators to assess plant performance. The colors start with "green," which has very low safety significance, to "white," "yellow" or "red," based on the significance of the issues. Inspection findings and performance indicators are updated on the NRC's web site (www.nrc.gov) each quarter.

The annual assessment letter for the McGuire plant is available on the NRC web site at www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/mcg_2009q4.pdf.

Routine inspections are carried out by the NRC resident inspectors assigned to the plant and by inspection specialists from the Region II office in Atlanta. Among the areas at the McGuire plant to be inspected this year by NRC specialists are the site's independent spent fuel storage facility, potential gas accumulation in the emergency core cooling system and dissimilar metal welds.

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

###

News releases are available through a free *listserv* subscription at the following Web address: <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/listserver.html>. The NRC homepage at www.nrc.gov also offers a SUBSCRIBE link. E-mail notifications are sent to subscribers when news releases are posted to NRC's Web site.