



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled an open house for Wednesday, April 28, and will be available to discuss and answer questions about the agency's assessment of safety performance during 2009 at the Summer nuclear power plant. The plant, operated by SCE&G, is located near Jenkinsville, S.C., about 26 miles northwest of Columbia.

The open house is informal and scheduled to run from 5-6 p.m. at McCrorey-Liston Elementary School, 1978 State Highway 215 South in Blair, S.C. During the open house, NRC staff will be available to answer questions on the safety performance of the Summer plant last year, as well as the NRC role in ensuring safe plant operation.

"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 near the Summer plant an opportunity to learn more about our oversight and is consistent with our commitment to openness and transparency."

A letter sent from the NRC Region II office to plant officials addresses the performance of the plant during 2009 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/sum_2009q4.pdf.

The NRC found that the Summer plant's 2009 performance met all of the agency's safety objectives and was at a level that results in no additional NRC oversight. This year, the NRC plans to continue to conduct the very detailed inspections required at those plants that are operating well. In addition, the agency will complete some generic inspections related to operator licensing examinations, ground water protection and reactor cooling system welds at Summer in 2009.

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.

Current performance information for Summer Unit 1 is available on the NRC web site at: www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/SUM/sum_chart.html.

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