



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs Region IV
612 E. Lamar Blvd., Suite 400
Arlington, TX 76011-4125
Telephone: (817) 860-8128

No. IV-11-006

January 26, 2011

Contact: Victor Dricks: (817) 860-8128
Lara Uselding: (817) 276-6519

E-Mail: OPA4.Resource@nrc.gov

NRC TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS PG&E DIGITAL UPGRADE PROPOSAL AT THE DIABLO CANYON NUCLEAR PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will hold a public meeting Feb. 3 to discuss Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) proposal to perform a digital upgrade of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant's instrumentation and control protection system. Diablo Canyon is a nuclear plant located near San Luis Obispo, Calif.

The meeting will be held from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the PG&E Energy Center, 6588 Ontario Road, San Luis Obispo. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions of the NRC staff at the meeting.

Diablo Canyon's reactor is protected by circuitry that will automatically and safely shut down the plant and activate other safety systems in the case of a malfunction. Currently this is an analog system. In order for PG&E to perform the digital upgrade, it would be required to apply to NRC for a license amendment.

PG&E has not applied for a license amendment yet. The purpose of the meeting is to provide the NRC staff with detailed information on the company's digital upgrade plan.

If NRC approves the plan to proceed, Diablo Canyon would be one of a few plants in the country to convert from analog to digital controls for its reactor protection system.

###

NRC news releases are available through a free list serve 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 website.