



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC SCHEDULES MEETING JAN. 26 TO DISCUSS INSPECTION AT BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled a public meeting at the Browns Ferry nuclear power plant to discuss the results of the second phase of NRC supplemental inspections performed as a result of a “red” inspection finding at the plant.

The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 26, at 1 p.m. CST at the Browns Ferry Training Center Auditorium, 10833 Shaw Road in Athens, Ala. The meeting will include members of the NRC supplemental inspection team as well as managers from the NRC’s Region II office in Atlanta. After the results are presented, the Tennessee Valley Authority, which operates the plant, will have an opportunity to respond. NRC staff will be available to answer questions from the public.

Members of the public interested in participating by telephone should contact the NRC's Eugene Guthrie at 404-997-4662 or eugene.guthrie@nrc.gov.

The “red” finding was issued because of the failure of a low pressure coolant injection valve at the plant last fall. That valve is part of a system that would be used for core cooling during certain accident scenarios and its inoperable state could have led to core damage had a series of unlikely events occurred. The valve has since been repaired. Under the NRC’s oversight process, a “red” finding has “high safety significance” and results in increased NRC inspection and oversight of the facility.

The increased NRC oversight at Browns Ferry includes a broad set of supplemental inspections to evaluate safety, organizational and programmatic issues at the plant. This meeting discusses the second phase of the three-phase supplemental inspection. The third phase is expected to begin later this year.

The inspections include a more extensive review of programs and processes than those conducted as part of the NRC’s baseline inspection program. The facility’s safety culture is also being assessed.

The three-unit Browns Ferry plant is located near Athens, about 32 miles west of Huntsville.

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