



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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

No. II-12-028

CONTACT: Roger Hannah (404) 997-4417
Joey Ledford (404) 997-4416

May 7, 2012

E-mail: OPA2@nrc.gov

NRC SCHEDULES PUBLIC MEETING MAY 15 TO DISCUSS STATUS OF INSPECTIONS AT BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled a public meeting near the Browns Ferry nuclear power plant to discuss the status of NRC supplemental inspections being performed as a result of a “red” inspection finding at the Tennessee Valley Authority facility.

The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 15, at 4 p.m. CDT at the Calhoun Community College Aerospace Training Center, 6250 Highway 31 North in Tanner, Ala.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the status of NRC inspection and oversight of TVA’s performance improvement plan and related activities associated with the red finding.

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 TVA’s presentation, 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 before the meeting at 404-997-4662 or eugene.guthrie@nrc.gov.

The “red” finding was issued in May 2011 because of the failure of a low pressure coolant injection valve at the plant the previous 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 was promptly 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. The inspections represent a far 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.