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NRC Schedules Virtual Meeting to Discuss Performance of Honeywell Facility

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will discuss the results of a performance review of the Honeywell uranium conversion facility in Metropolis, Illinois, during a <u>virtual meeting</u> scheduled for Apr. 13.

The session will be held from 10-11:30 a.m., Eastern time, with NRC officials from the Region II office in Atlanta and the agency's headquarters in Rockville, Maryland, and Honeywell officials at the facility in Metropolis. The public and media will be able to access the meeting via Microsoft Teams, and NRC officials will be available following the formal part of the meeting to answer questions.

Members of the public choosing to listen to the meeting via telephone can call 301-576-2978, passcode 172805679#. Telephone participants will need to press *6 to unmute their phones to ask the NRC staff questions during that part of the meeting.

The NRC staff assessed the performance of the Honeywell facility beginning Jan. 1, 2020, and ending Dec. 31, 2021, in safety operations, safeguards, radiological controls, facility support, and other areas. The NRC staff review found that Honeywell continued to conduct its activities safely and securely, protecting public health and the environment.

The NRC does not have resident inspectors at the Metropolis facility, but fuel facility inspectors from its Atlanta regional office conduct periodic inspections of various aspects of the operation. The facility is currently in a "ready-idle" status with a reduced amount of material on site, and the NRC adjusted its inspection program during the inspection period.

On Feb. 21, 2021, Honeywell informed the NRC of its intent to resume full operations at the Metropolis facility with an anticipated return to production in 2023. As a result, the NRC plans to return to the normal core inspection program for 2022 and 2023. The agency has also scheduled additional inspections this year to review planned startup activities at the facility.

A <u>copy</u> of the NRC letter to the company regarding the performance review is publicly available on the NRC website.