NRC NEWS

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NRC SCHEDULES REGULATORY CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS CRYSTAL RIVER NUCLEAR PLANT CONCERN

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has scheduled a regulatory conference with officials of Progress Energy on July 22 in Atlanta to discuss the risk significance of an inspection finding at the company's Crystal River nuclear power plant, located near Crystal River, Fla.

NRC and Progress Energy officials will discuss the significance of concerns associated with an NRC inspection finding involving the lack of protection from fire damage to electrical cables at the plant. Fire damage to the cables could adversely affect a safe shutdown. Also, a local manual action by an operator to recover from the effects of the fire damage to the cables was not feasible because it involved entering a potentially smoke-filled room.

The NRC evaluates regulatory performance at commercial nuclear power plants with a color-coded system which classifies findings as either green, white, yellow or red, in increasing order of safety significance. The NRC's preliminary evaluation determined that the safety significance of this issue at Crystal River is greater than Green, meaning that it is considered to be greater than a very low safety significance.

The meeting is open to public observation and is scheduled for 10:00 a.m., in the NRC's Region II office, located on the 24th floor of the Atlanta Federal Center at 61 Forsyth Street SW in Atlanta.

No decisions on the final safety significance, any apparent violation or any possible enforcement action will be made during the conference. Those decisions will be made by NRC officials at a later time.

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