NRC NEWS

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NRC TO MEET WITH NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT TO DISCUSS MARCH 14 FIRE AT COOPER NUCLEAR STATION

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with representatives of the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) on July 13, to discuss the company's response to a fire that occurred at the Cooper Nuclear Station on March 14.

The meeting will begin at noon in the NRC's Region IV office in Arlington, Texas. The public is invited to observe the meeting and will have one or more opportunities to communicate with the NRC after the business portion, but before the meeting is adjourned. Persons interested in participating in the meeting via telephone can do so by calling (800) 952-9677 and asking to be transferred to the meeting.

NPPD asked the NRC for an opportunity to provide its perspective on a non-cited violation regarding failure to properly implement its emergency response plan during a March 14 fire that occurred in part of the radiologically controlled area used as a storage and machine shop.

The NRC determined that NPPD failed to declare the fire an Unusual Event, as called for in its emergency plan, because it took more than 10 minutes to extinguish.

"It is important that licensees appropriately classify emergencies as well as respond to them effectively," said Bruce S. Mallet, NRC Region IV Administrator. "NPPD disagreed with the NRC's conclusions and requested a meeting to discuss the issues."

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