



NRC NEWS

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, REGION II

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NRC TO DISCUSS 2005 PERFORMANCE AT BRUNSWICK NUCLEAR PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff is scheduled to meet with Progress Energy officials on Wednesday, April 12, to discuss the agency's assessment of safety performance last year at the Brunswick nuclear power plant, located near Southport in southeastern North Carolina.

The meeting, which is open to the public, is scheduled to begin at 1:00 p.m. in the Brunswick Media Center Auditorium near the entrance to the plant site. The NRC staff will present the results of the assessment and be available to respond to questions or comments from the public before the close of the meeting.

"The NRC continually reviews the performance of the Brunswick plant and the nation's other commercial nuclear power facilities," NRC Region II Administrator William Travers said. "This meeting is a chance for us to discuss that safety performance with the company, with local officials and with people living near the plant."

A letter sent from the NRC Region II Office to plant officials addresses the performance of the plant during the period and will serve as the basis for the meeting discussion. It is available on the NRC web site at www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/bru_2005q4.pdf.

The NRC uses color-coded inspection findings and performance indicators to assess nuclear plant performance. The colors start with "green" and then increase to "white," "yellow" or "red," depending on the safety significance of the issues involved.

The NRC said the Brunswick plant operated safely during 2005 with all inspection findings being "green," or very low safety significance, and all performance indicators also indicating performance at levels requiring no additional NRC oversight during the first, second and third quarters. Brunswick Unit 1 continued to operate in the fourth quarter with only "green" inspection findings and performance indicators, but Unit 2 crossed the threshold from "green" to "white" for the unplanned scrams (shutdowns) performance indicator in the fourth quarter. As a result, the NRC staff plans to conduct a supplemental inspection of Unit 2 activities this year in addition to the baseline or routine inspections planned.

Routine inspections are performed by NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant and by inspection specialists from the Region II Office in Atlanta, and the agency's headquarters in Rockville, Md.

Current information for the Brunswick plant is available on the NRC web site at:
www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/BRU1/bru1_chart.html and
www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/BRU2/bru2_chart.html .

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