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NRC To Discuss 2014 Performance Assessment for Arkansas Nuclear One

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet in Russellville, Ark., on May 12 with representatives of Entergy Operations to discuss the agency's 2014 assessment of safety performance for Arkansas Nuclear One. The plant is located in Russellville.

The meeting, which will be open to the public, is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. in the Lakepoint Conference Center, 61 Lake Point Lane.

In addition to presenting their assessment of plant performance, the NRC staff will be available to answer questions from the public on the safety performance of Arkansas Nuclear One, as well as the NRC's role in ensuring safe plant operation.

"The NRC continually reviews the performance of Arkansas Nuclear One and the nation's other commercial nuclear power facilities to ensure they are being operated safely," said Marc Dapas, NRC Region IV Administrator. "This meeting is important because it provides an opportunity for a discussion of Entergy's actions to address the significant decline in plant performance since the last annual assessment. Local officials and residents who live near the plant will get to hear that discussion and ask any questions."

A [letter](#) sent from the NRC Region IV office to plant officials addresses the performance of the plant during 2014 and will serve as the basis for the meeting discussion.

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, commensurate with the safety significance of the issues involved. Performance indicators are statistical measurements of plant and equipment performance. The NRC's action matrix reflects overall plant performance and agency response. There are five columns in the matrix with Column 1 requiring a baseline level of inspections; plants in Column 5 are not permitted to operate. The NRC increases the level of oversight and inspection as plant performance deteriorates.

Arkansas Nuclear One is in Column 4 of the NRC's action matrix, and will receive the highest level of oversight for the rest of 2014. In June 2014, the NRC issued two yellow findings to Arkansas Nuclear One in connection with a 2013 heavy equipment handling incident at the plant. In January 2015, the NRC issued two yellow findings to Arkansas Nuclear One associated with flood protection at the plant. The cumulative effect of these violations moved the plant into Column 4.

Inspections will be performed by three NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant, inspection specialists from the Region IV office in Arlington, Texas, and specialists from the agency's headquarters in Rockville, Md. The plant will receive numerous supplemental inspections because it is in Column 4.

Information about the plant's [current performance](#) is available on the NRC web site.