



NRC NEWS

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801 Warrenville Road

Lisle IL 60532

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CONTACT: Jan Strasma (630) 829-9663
Viktoria Mitlyng (630) 829-9662

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E-mail: Opa@nrc.gov

NRC TO MEET WITH UNITED STATES ENRICHMENT CORP. TO DISCUSS PORTSMOUTH GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANT PERFORMANCE

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with U. S. Enrichment Corp. officials in Piketon, Ohio, on Thursday, December 19, to discuss the results of the agency's assessment of performance at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant. The plant formerly processed uranium for use as fuel in nuclear power plants and is currently on a standby status.

The meeting will be held at 2 p.m. (EST) at Ohio State University, South Center, 1864 Shyville Road, in Piketon, Ohio. The public is invited to observe the meeting and will have an opportunity to make comments and ask questions of the NRC staff before the meeting is adjourned.

This performance review, which covers the period of October 1, 2000, through September 30 of this year, focused on four major areas: safety operations, safeguards, radiological control and facility support. The review concluded that the performance of Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in the area of safeguards was adequate and needed no improvement. The plant's performance in the areas of safety operations, radiological controls and facility support was evaluated as adequate but needing improvement in the quality of procedures and adherence to procedures, contamination control practices, configuration control and the implementation of the corrective actions program.

The meeting will focus on details of NRC's review, USEC's evaluation of the same major areas of performance and the company's plans to address the NRC's concerns.

The outline of the performance review and the performance review letter are available from the NRC's Region III Office of Public Affairs, the NRC Public Document Room at 1-800-397-4209 and in the agency's ADAMS electronic reading room at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

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