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**SURRY NUCLEAR PLANT RATED "SUPERIOR" IN THREE AREAS,
"GOOD" IN FOURTH AREA OF NRC ASSESSMENT REPORT**

The Surry nuclear power plant received performance ratings of "superior" in three areas and "good" in the fourth area of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's latest systematic assessment of licensee performance (SALP) of the facility.

The SALP report was sent November 8 to Virginia Power, which operates the facility near Surry, Virginia. It evaluates the plant's performance from January 22, 1995, through September 28 of this year.

NRC and Virginia Power officials will discuss the report during a meeting set for 1:00 p.m. Monday, November 18, at the Surry site. The meeting will be open for public observation. NRC officials will be available after the meeting to speak with reporters, state and local officials, and members of the public.

NRC systematic assessment reports rate licensees in four functional areas - plant operations, maintenance, engineering, and plant support - and assign ratings of Category 1, 2 or 3 depending on whether their performance in those areas was superior, good or adequate. The report on Surry gives the plant a Category 1 rating in plant operations, engineering and plant support, indicating "superior" performance, and a Category 2 rating in maintenance, indicating "good" performance. In the previous SALP report in February 1995, the plant received the same ratings although the latest report did indicate improving performance in the maintenance area.

In his cover letter to the report, NRC Regional Administrator Stewart Ebnetter said "common threads that contributed to the superior performance...were effective self-assessments and strong management involvement." He mentioned conservative decision making, control room professionalism, excellent communications and prompt responses to off-normal conditions in the operations area.

Ebnetter said improvements were noted in the maintenance area and the engineering area showed strengths in design control, team work and effective engineering outputs. He pointed out continued superior performance in the plant support area including radiological controls, emergency planning and physical security.

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In his letter, Ebnetter mentioned several challenges such as human performance in the maintenance area and "cases of apparently deliberate management failures to observe procedural requirements during schedule- intensive activities."

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EDITORS: A copy of the full SALP report is available from this office. SALP reports are also available on the NRC's Internet web site (<http://www.nrc.gov/OPA>) and by e-mail subscription. To receive SALP reports by e-mail as they are issued, send an e-mail to listproc@nrc.gov with the following message: subscribe salp yourfirstname yourlastname.