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**NRC FINDS PERFORMANCE 'ACCEPTABLE'
AT CALLAWAY IN LATEST REVIEW**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has found that safety performance remains acceptable in the NRC's latest plant performance review at Callaway Nuclear Plant located near Fulton, Missouri.

Officials of NRC and Union Electric (now known as AmerenUE), the utility which operates the plant, will discuss the review during a meeting set for Thursday, April 1, at 1:30 p.m. at the Callaway Plant Emergency Operations Facility in Steedman, Missouri. The meeting will be open for public observation. NRC officials will be available afterwards to speak with reporters, state and local officials, and members of the public.

In a letter to AmerenUE Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer Garry L. Randolph, NRC Branch Chief David N. Graves said, "Overall, performance at the Callaway Plant was acceptable. Performance in the area of operations continued to assure safe and conservative decision making, and the licensee effectively implemented the maintenance and engineering programs. All three of these areas experienced some negative findings, but none indicated any programmatic concerns. . . Plant support performance was noted to be improving."

The text of the plant performance review letter is available from the NRC Region IV Office of Public Affairs and will soon be on the NRC web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/OPA/ppr>.

NRC reviews safety performance twice a year at every licensed nuclear power plant in the nation. These reviews give the agency staff an integrated assessment of plant performance and provide a basis for planning inspection activities.

Plant performance reviews are an interim measure NRC is utilizing to monitor nuclear power plant safety. The agency began using it for this purpose after suspending the Systematic Assessment of License Performance (SALP) process until a new assessment program is developed. Previously, SALP reports were issued every 12 to 24 months.

The new reactor oversight and assessment program being developed will provide quarterly performance reports, based on a number of performance indicators and on inspection findings. This program will be tested at eight plants beginning in June and, if found acceptable, will be extended to all plants next January. A full description of the new program is available on the NRC web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/OPA/primer.htm>.

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