

No. II-03-022 CONTACT: Ken Clark (404)562-4416 Roger Hannah (404)562-4417 March 28, 2003 E-mail: OPA2@nrc.gov

NRC TO MEET WITH DUKE ENERGY OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS SAFETY PERFORMANCE AT McGUIRE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with Duke Energy officials on Friday, April 4, to discuss the results of NRC's annual assessment of safety performance at the McGuire nuclear power plant near Huntersville, North Carolina.

The meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m. in the Community Room at the North County Regional Branch of the Charlotte and Mecklenburg County Public Library, located off Exit 25 of I-77 at 16500 Holly Crest Lane in Huntersville. The public is invited to observe the meeting, and NRC officials will be available before the conclusion of the meeting to answer any questions.

A letter from the NRC to Duke Energy addresses plant safety performance during the previous year and forms the basis for the meeting discussions. The letter states that, overall, McGuire operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and that plant performance was at a level requiring no additional NRC inspection beyond the normal baseline activities. The letter, which is available from Region II Public Affairs and on the NRC web site at <u>www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/mcg_2002q4.pdf</u>, says the NRC staff will also conduct inspections of the plant's implementation of NRC security advisories and Orders, review the plant staff's activities in response to an NRC Bulletin on reactor vessel heads and vessel head penetrations, administer operator licensing examinations and conduct routine inspections of the plant's Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation.

Current performance indicators for the two units at the McGuire plant are available at www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/MCG1/mcg1_chart.html and www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/MCG1/mcg1_chart.html and

###