



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs, Region IV

611 Ryan Plaza Drive - Suite 400

Arlington TX 76011-4005

No. IV-03-015

CONTACT: Victor Drick

Phone: 817-860-8128

April 2, 2003

E-mail: opa4@nrc.gov

NRC TO MEET WITH ENTERGY OPERATIONS, INC. TO DISCUSS PERFORMANCE OF ARKANSAS NUCLEAR ONE

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with representatives of Entergy Operations, Inc., on Wednesday, April 9, to discuss the results of the agency's annual assessment of safety performance at Arkansas Nuclear One. The facility, which includes two operating reactors, is located near Russellville, AK, and is operated by Entergy.

The meeting, which will be open to the public for observation, is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. at Arkansas Tech University, 233 Doc Bryan Student Services Center, Russellville.

Before the session is adjourned, NRC staff will be available to answer questions from the public on the safety performance of the plant, as well as the role of the NRC in ensuring safe plant operation.

The performance period to be discussed is January 1 to December 31, 2002. In addition, NRC staff will provide an overview of how the agency's Reactor Oversight Process works.

A letter sent from the NRC Region IV Office to representatives of Entergy, addresses the performance of the plant during the period and will serve as the basis for the meeting discussion. It is available on the NRC web site at:

http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/ano_2002q4.pdf

"Overall, Arkansas Nuclear One operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives," the letter says. "However, the significance of two findings is still under review as part of the Significance Determination Process: (1) a fire protection program finding related to the use of manual actions to achieve safe shutdown; and (2) a repeat reactor coolant system boundary leak. Depending on the outcome of this review, these findings could result in required supplemental inspections."

In addition, the letter notes: "As you are aware, since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the NRC has issued several Orders and threat advisories to enhance security capabilities and improve guard force readiness. We have conducted inspections to review your implementation of these requirements and have monitored your actions in response to changing threat conditions. For calendar year 2003, we plan to continue these inspections and conduct portions of the security baseline

inspection program, as well as perform additional inspections to evaluate your compliance with new requirements that may be ordered."

Current performance information for Arkansas Nuclear One Unit 1 is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/ANO1/ano1_chart.html

Current performance information for Unit 2 is available at:

http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/ANO2/ano2_chart.html

###