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61 Forsyth Street SW, Atlanta GA 30303
Web Site: www.nrc.gov

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CONTACT: Roger Hannah (404) 562-4417
Joey Ledford (404) 562-4416

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E-mail: OPA2@nrc.gov

NRC SCHEDULES PUBLIC MEETING ON INSPECTION RESULTS FOR URANIUM PELLETS REPORTED MISSING AT WESTINGHOUSE COLUMBIA PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will present the results of a special inspection conducted over the past several months at the Westinghouse commercial nuclear fuel plant near Columbia, S.C., at a public meeting on Thursday, Oct. 1.

The special inspection was initiated after the company reported to the NRC in May that it could not account for a small container of scrap low-enriched uranium pellets in one of its process areas. Westinghouse identified that the container was missing during a site audit, and reported the incident to the NRC.

The meeting will be held at 1 p.m. in the Red Room of the South Carolina State Museum, 301 Gervais Street in Columbia. The meeting will be open to the public and news media. The NRC staff will present the results of the inspection, and then be available to answer questions.

“Based on the information available, the NRC did not find any indications that the material was removed from the site,” said NRC Region II Administrator Luis Reyes. “However, the lapse in control and accountability for the material is something we take very seriously. Because of the low level of enrichment as well as the physical and chemical attributes of the pellets, the material would not pose a significant risk to people or the environment.”

The final inspection report will be available online in about 30 days in the NRC’s Agency-wide Document Access and Management System at www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html .

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