

## Nuke plant report to be presented

By Anna Simon

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The Nuclear Regulatory Commission meets with Duke Energy officials May 7 to review its annual assessment of Oconee Nuclear Station, where a brief power loss raised concern last year.

The 6 p.m. meeting is scheduled at Duke's World of Energy at the nuclear station and is open to the public.

While all three reactor units operated safely overall during 2008, an incident involving coolant loss in Unit 1 will trigger a supplemental inspection this summer, according to an annual letter from the NRC to Oconee site vice president David Baxter.

The issue raised concern last year and goes back to a brief power loss that interrupted cooling on April 15 during a scheduled maintenance and refueling outage for the Unit 1 reactor.

The NRC classified it as having "low to moderate safety significance," and after meetings with plant officials determined that human error played a role in the incident. It will be discussed again during the performance review, said Roger Hannah, an NRC spokesman.

Duke has maintained that the incident was of low safety significance.

"Safety of the public is our priority every day and at no time did this incident represent any safety concern," said Jason Walls, a Duke spokesman.

### YOU CAN GO

When: May 7, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Where: World of Energy at Oconee Nuclear Station  
What: Nuclear Regulatory Commission's annual assessment of Oconee Nuclear Station and NRC Reactor Oversight Process