

Nuclear station gets positive marks from NRC

THE JOURNAL STAFF

SENECA — In its latest inspection of the three Oconee Nuclear Station units, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission found the plant performed at the highest possible level.

In a virtual Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) meeting last week, officials discussed the local nuclear power plant's latest safety inspections.

Senior resident inspector Jared Nadel said the inspection

happened in the most recent quarter.

"For 2019, Duke Energy did operate the Oconee plant safely and operated the plant in a way that protected the environment," he said. "In 2020, we plan to conduct routine baseline inspections at the Oconee Nuclear Station."

In a letter to the plant, the three units were within the "Licensee Response Column, the highest performance

SEE STATION, PAGE A5

STATION: Plant's units were in highest performance category

FROM PAGE A1

category of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process Action Matrix, because all inspection findings had very low significance, and all PIs (performance indicators) were within range" in the final quarter of 2019.

The NRC is set to conduct baseline inspections throughout the year, officials said in the meeting.

The Reactor Oversight Process requires thousands of hours of inspection each year, local NRC public affairs officer

Roger Hannah said. The inspection uses color-coding to report findings and measure plant perfor-

mance. Findings with more than very low safety significance results trigger increased oversight.