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NRC Schedules Virtual Meeting to Discuss Performance of Honeywell Facility

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will discuss the results of a performance review of the Honeywell uranium conversion facility in Metropolis, Ill., during a virtual meeting scheduled for April 14.

The session will be held from 1-3 p.m., Eastern Time (12-2 p.m., Central Time) with NRC officials from the Region II office in Atlanta and the agency's headquarters in Rockville, Md., as well as Honeywell officials at the facility in Metropolis. The meeting can be accessed by the public and media via Skype and NRC officials will be available following the formal portion of the meeting to answer questions. For individuals without access to Skype, a telephone conference call number will also be available.

The NRC staff assessed performance of the Honeywell facility during the period beginning Jan. 1, 2018 and ending Dec. 31, 2019, in safety operations, safeguards, radiological controls, facility support and other areas. Although the safeguards area was assessed, that information is not publicly available due to its sensitive nature. The NRC staff review determined that Honeywell continued to conduct its activities safely and securely, protecting public health and the environment.

The NRC does not have resident inspectors at the Metropolis facility, but fuel facility inspectors from its Atlanta regional office conduct periodic inspections of various aspects of the operation.

Because the review found that none of the program areas needed improvement and the facility is currently in a "ready-idle" status with a reduced amount of material on site, the NRC has adjusted its inspection program accordingly. That reduction in overall inspections will remain in effect for the next two years if the facility remains in "ready-idle" status.

A copy of the NRC <u>letter</u> to the company regarding the performance review is publicly available on the NRC website.

For virtual meeting access or telephone call-in information, please contact either Tom Vukovinsky at 404-997-4622 (email: Thomas.vukovinsky@nrc.gov) or Paul Startz at 404-997-4709 (email: Paul.startz@nrc.gov).