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Region III Office of Public Affairs  
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D.C. COOK PLANT RATED "SUPERIOR" IN ONE AREA  
"GOOD" IN THREE AREAS IN LATEST SYSTEMATIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

The D.C. Cook Nuclear Power Plant has received performance ratings of "superior" in plant support and "good" in operations, maintenance, and engineering in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's latest Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) report for the facility.

The report was sent July 8 to American Electric Power Company, which operates the facility near Benton Harbor, Michigan. It evaluates the plant's performance from October 30, 1994, through May 25 of this year.

NRC and American Electric Power Company officials will discuss the assessment during a meeting at 1 p.m., July 25, at the Donald C. Cook Visitors Center on the plant site. NRC officials will be available afterwards to speak with reporters, state and local officials, and members of the public.

NRC systematic assessment reports rate licensees in four functional areas - plant operations, maintenance, engineering, and plant support - and assign ratings of Category 1, 2 or 3 depending on whether their performance in those areas was superior, good or adequate. The report on D.C. Cook gives the plant a "Category 1" rating in plant support, indicating superior performance. It assigns a "Category 2" rating in operations, maintenance, and engineering, indicating good performance.

NRC Regional Administrator Hubert J. Miller, in a letter to the utility, said: "It is my view that conduct of activities at the D.C. Cook nuclear plant, while good overall, declined in operations and maintenance when compared to the last SALP period. This was primarily due to operational and maintenance errors leading to several plant trips, transients, and operability concerns."

He observed that the decline in performance was partly driven by poor communications between departments, personnel errors and ineffective work planning.

Mr. Miller noted that the strengths of the facility included the experience and professionalism of the operators, continued

low personnel exposure, and the maintenance of security systems.

"Early this year, during a management meeting with the NRC staff, you outlined the initiatives you had implemented to improve plant performance. We view these as positive plans which should arrest the decline in performance and encourage you to continue with these efforts," he added.

The ratings for each functional area of this report and the previous report were:

<u>Functional Area</u>	<u>Current Period</u>	<u>Previous Period</u>
Operations	2	1
Maintenance	2	1
Engineering	2	2
Plant Support	1	1

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NOTE: A copy of the full report may be obtained from the Region III Office of Public Affairs at the telephone numbers or e-mail address above.

These assessment reports are now available on the internet at: <<http://www.nrc.gov/OPA>>. Reports for all plants in the U.S. may be obtained when they are issued through an internet e-mail subscription. Send an e-mail addressed to [listproc@nrc.gov](mailto:listproc@nrc.gov) with the following message: subscribe salp yourfirstname yourlastname.