

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
Region III Office of Public Affairs  
801 Warrenville Road, Lisle, IL 60532-4351

NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT: RIII-96-16

May 9, 1996

CONTACT: Jan Strasma 708/829-9663  
Angela Dauginas 708/829-9662  
E-mail: opa3@nrc.gov

FERMI PLANT RATED "SUPERIOR" IN ONE AREA, "GOOD" IN TWO AREAS,  
"ADEQUATE" IN ONE AREA IN LATEST SYSTEMATIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

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

The SALP report was sent May 8 to Detroit Edison Company, which operates the plant in Monroe, Michigan. It evaluates the plant's performance from April 2, 1994, through March 20 of this year.

NRC and Detroit Edison Company officials will discuss the assessment during a meeting set for 10 a.m. May 21 at the Monroe County Courthouse, 106 E. First Street in Monroe, Michigan. The meeting will be open for public observation. 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 Fermi gives a "Category 1" rating in plant support, indicating superior performance. It assigns a "Category 2" rating in both maintenance and engineering, indicating good performance. It assigns a "Category 3" rating in operations, indicating adequate performance with improvements needed.

NRC Regional Administrator Hubert J. Miller, in a letter to the utility, said: "...conduct of nuclear activities at Fermi, while good overall, showed little improvement when compared to the last SALP period."

Mr. Miller added:

"While safety related equipment continues to be well

maintained, plant housekeeping was strong and some improvements were made in balance of plant (BOP) equipment, a number of major BOP equipment problems routinely challenged operators. Most performance problems were self-revealing or identified by NRC. One of Fermi's major challenges will be implementing an effective problem identification and corrective action program."

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	3	3
Maintenance	2	2
Engineering	2	2
Plant Support	1	1

# # # #

(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.)