



NRC NEWS

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Office of Public Affairs

Telephone: 301/415-8200

Washington, DC 20555-001

E-mail: opa@nrc.gov

Web Site: <http://www.nrc.gov/OPA>

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NRC ISSUES PLANT PERFORMANCE REVIEWS FOR 90 NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has completed its Plant Performance Reviews (PPRs) for 90 nuclear power plants and is making them available on the NRC web site. Thirteen nuclear plants, which participated in a pilot test of the agency's revised reactor oversight process, received their performance assessments late last year.

PPRs are an interim measure the NRC has used to assess nuclear power plant safety, after suspending the Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) in 1998 while it developed a revised reactor oversight process. PPRs consist of an in-depth, integrated assessment of overall plant performance. The primary purpose of these reviews is to evaluate safety performance information and identify any changes in plant performance so NRC can allocate inspection resources appropriately. The text of each PPR letter is available from the NRC Office of Public Affairs and has been posted at: <http://www.nrc.gov/OPA/assessment.htm> on the NRC web site.

An important element of the previous SALP process was the public meeting the NRC conducted with the licensee to discuss the assessment results. During the interim process, the NRC has continued its practice of meeting publicly with licensees to discuss its performance assessments. Most plants have had recent public meetings and therefore few meetings are scheduled for these PPRs. Any meeting will be announced separately.

These PPRs mark the last assessments before initial implementation begins this month of the revised reactor oversight process. The Commission recently approved its use for the remaining operating commercial nuclear power plants (except for the D.C. Cook plant, due to an extended shutdown).

Under the new program, the NRC will conduct quarterly reviews of performance indicators and inspection findings and issue semi-annual assessments and updates to each plant's inspection plans. A full description of the revised reactor oversight process is available at: <http://www.nrc.gov/OPA/primer.htm> or <http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/index.html> on the NRC web site.

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