

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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**NRC FINDS PERFORMANCE 'ACCEPTABLE'
AT WATERFORD IN LATEST REVIEW**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has found that safety performance remains acceptable in the NRC's latest plant performance review at Waterford 3 nuclear plant in Taft, Louisiana.

In a letter to Entergy Operations Vice President Charles M. Dugger NRC Branch Chief Phil Harrell described the results of the review by saying, "Overall, performance at Waterford 3 was acceptable. Operators handled routine and nonroutine events properly." Communications were noted to have improved from the previous assessment. Isolated problems, such as instances of weak usage of routine procedures, were noted in several of the programs which were reviewed. None of the weaknesses, however, were seen as challenging the overall safe operation of the facility.

The text of the plant performance review is available from the NRC Region IV Office of Public Affairs and will soon be on the NRC web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/OPA/ppr>. No public meeting will be held to discuss the results of the review because a Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) was issued within the last 18 months.

NRC reviews safety performance twice a year at every licensed nuclear power plant in the nation. These reviews give the agency staff an integrated assessment of plant performance and provide a basis for planning inspection activities.

Plant performance reviews are an interim measure NRC is utilizing to monitor nuclear power plant safety. The agency began using it for this purpose after suspending the Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) process until a new assessment program is developed. Previously, SALP reports were issued every 12 to 24 months.

The new reactor oversight and assessment program being developed will provide quarterly performance reports, based on a number of performance indicators and on inspection findings. This program will be tested at eight plants beginning in June and, if found acceptable, will be extended to all plants next January. A full description of the new program is available on the NRC web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/OPA/primer.htm>.

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