

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission

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Officials of the Electric Power Service Company (EPSCo) own and operate the plant. They will also attend and make a presentation on Unit 2 readiness to return to service.

Immediately following the meeting, NRC Region Administrator Robert Miller will meet with interested members of the news media to discuss the agency's oversight of the Salem restart process and related issues.

The NRC's readiness assessment team inspection began on February 11 and included a nearly two-day close-up look at management controls and programs needed to support a safe restart and continued operation of the plant. Agency inspectors examined documents, observed plant equipment and activities, and conducted interviews with operators.

Salem Unit has been out of service since May 1998 when it was voluntarily shut down by EPSCo during that time. The utility has worked to address multiple programmatic problems, repair degraded equipment and improve corrective action processes.

Salem Unit 1 has been on-line since June 1998 resumed power production last October. The plant shut down earlier this month on February 11 so that repairs could be made to an emergency diesel generator and other equipment.

After the reactors were taken out of service in 1994, the NRC issued a Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) detailing changes needed to make it possible to restart the units and requiring that they remain on-line until these commitments were met. The CAL was modified last August to allow the restart of Unit 1 but it remains in place for Unit 2 pending the resolution of its restart issues.