



NRC NEWS

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NRC TO DISCUSS PERFORMANCE AT SALEM, HOPE CREEK NUCLEAR PLANTS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has scheduled a meeting for Thursday, June 15, to discuss the NRC Reactor Oversight Program Annual Assessments for the Salem and Hope Creek nuclear power plants. The plants are located in Hancocks Bridge, N.J., and operated by Public Service Electric & Gas Company.

Scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. in the auditorium of the Processing Center at the site, the meeting will be open to the public for observation. Following the session, NRC staff will be available to answer questions from interested observers.

Issuance of the reviews was announced in NRC news release No. 00-085, which can be found on the agency's web site at www.nrc.gov/OPA/gmo/nrarcv/00-085.html

The Assessment Letter for Hope Creek can be found at www.nrc.gov/OPA/prr/salem2000.html, for Salem at www.nrc.gov/OPA/ppr/hopecreek2000.html

Salem and Hope Creek were among the 13 nuclear power plants that participated in a six-month pilot evaluation of the NRC's revised reactor oversight program. No significant performance problems were identified at any of the 13 plants.

All commercial nuclear power plants (with the exception of the two D.C. Cook plants, due to their extended shutdown) are now being evaluated under the revised reactor oversight process initiated on April 2. The NRC expects to make additional refinements to the program during its first year of implementation.

As part of the new program, each plant will receive an assessment letter every six months which will include a 12-month inspection plan that may be updated periodically to reflect changes in nuclear power plant performance and NRC resource allocations. Updated information on plant performance is being posted to the NRC web site every quarter at: www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/index.html