



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS -- REGION I

475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406

No. I-02-056

August 29, 2002

CONTACT: Diane Screnci, (610) 337-5330
Neil A. Sheehan, (610) 337-5331

E-mail: opal@nrc.gov

NRC ISSUES ASSESSMENT FOR INDIAN POINT 2, CHANGES DESIGNATION; PUBLIC MEETING REGARDING PLANT SCHEDULED FOR SEPT. 4

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued a mid-cycle performance assessment letter for the Indian Point 2 nuclear power plant. It has also scheduled a public meeting for Wednesday, September 4, to discuss the assessment as well as other developments involving the Buchanan, N.Y., facility.

In the letter to Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc., which owns and operates Indian Point 2, the NRC informed the company it was closing out a "red" finding issued to the facility in late 2000 and removing its designation as a "multiple degraded cornerstones" plant. That designation was the result of previous inspection findings at the plant associated with a reactor shutdown with complications in August 1999 and a steam generator tube failure in February 2000. The NRC has determined, through inspections and assessments, that Entergy has substantially addressed performance weaknesses underlying those degraded cornerstones to warrant the designation change.

Because a "yellow" finding -- issued late last year as a result of control room operator training deficiencies -- remains open, Indian Point 2 will now shift to the "degraded cornerstone" category. Consequently, the NRC will continue to closely monitor improvement efforts at the plant.

At the public meeting on September 4, NRC staff will meet with Entergy representatives to discuss performance improvement efforts at Indian Point 2 and recent NRC inspections of those efforts. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. in the Vincent F. Nyberg General Meeting Room at Cortlandt Town Hall, 1 Heady Street, Cortlandt, N.Y. The public is invited to observe the meeting and will have an opportunity to ask questions of NRC staff before the session is adjourned.

Specific topics to be discussed will be Entergy's performance improvement efforts at Indian Point 2 as described in the plant's Fundamentals Improvement Plan. In addition, NRC staff will present the results of recent inspections and assessments conducted at the plant, including a team inspection conducted in June and July.

Copies on the NRC's assessment letter for Indian Point 2 will be available on the agency's web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/inpt_2002q2.pdf

###