



NRC NEWS

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

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NRC TO DISCUSS ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT OF LIMERICK NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with representatives of Exelon Generation Company on Thursday, April 3, to discuss the results of the agency's annual assessment of safety performance at the Limerick nuclear power plant. The twin-reactor facility is located in Limerick Township, Pa., and operated by Exelon.

The meeting, which will be open to the public for observation, is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. at the Limerick Township Municipal Building, 646 W. Ridge Pike in Limerick. Before the session is adjourned, NRC staff will be available to answer questions from the public on the safety performance of the Limerick plant, as well as the role of the NRC in ensuring safe plant operation.

The performance period to be discussed is January 1 to December 31, 2002. In addition, NRC staff will provide an overview of how the agency's Reactor Oversight Process works.

A letter sent from the NRC Region I Office to plant officials addresses the performance of the facility during the period and will serve as the basis for the meeting discussion. It is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/lim_2002q4.pdf

"Overall, both of the units at Limerick operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives," the letter states. As a result, the NRC plans to conduct only baseline inspections at the plant through March 31, 2004. During the last assessment period, the NRC conducted supplemental inspections in response to two issues of low to moderate safety significance ("white") identified in 2001. One involved an inadequate critique of an emergency preparedness drill that affected both units. The other finding involving inadequate measures to identify a degraded safety-relief valve that affected only Unit 2. The supplemental inspections determined that the actions taken by Exelon in response to the issues were effective and appropriate.

The letter also notes: "As you are aware, since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the NRC has issued several Orders and threat advisories to enhance security capabilities and improve guard force readiness. We have conducted inspections to review your implementation of these requirements and have monitored your actions in response to changing threat conditions. For calendar

year 2003, we plan to continue these inspections, conduct portions of the security baseline inspection program, as well as perform additional inspections to evaluate your compliance with new requirements that may be ordered."

Current performance information for Limerick 1 is available on the NRC web site at:
http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LIM1/lim1_chart.html

Current performance information for Limerick 2 is available on the NRC web site at:
http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LIM2/lim2_chart.html

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