



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC TO MEET WITH DETROIT EDISON COMPANY TO DISCUSS PERFORMANCE OF FERMI 2 NUCLEAR PLANT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with representatives of Detroit Edison Company on Thursday, April 1, to discuss the results of the agency's assessment of safety performance at the Fermi 2 Nuclear Power Plant during 2003. The facility is located in Newport, Michigan.

The meeting will be held at 5 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at the Monroe City Hall, 120 E. First St., Monroe, Michigan. The public is invited to observe the meeting, and NRC officials will be available before the conclusion of the meeting to answer questions from the public. In addition, the NRC staff will provide an overview of how the agency's Reactor Oversight Process works.

The NRC concluded that the plant operated safely last year. One problem occurred which will warrant an additional NRC inspection beyond the normal inspection program. This inspection, planned for April, will review the utility's response to a loose connection on a pressure switch for an emergency diesel generator. The loose connection, discovered by the utility last year, could have affected the operation of the diesel generator in the unlikely event of an earthquake.

Routine inspections are performed by the two NRC resident inspectors assigned to the plant and by inspection specialists from Region III office in Lisle, Illinois.

A March 4 letter from the NRC to Detroit Edison Company officials addresses the performance of the plant during 2003 and will serve as the basis for the meeting discussion. It is available at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/ferm_2003q4.pdf

With regard to security issues, the NRC has issued several orders and threat advisories to enhance security capabilities and improve guard force readiness since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. The agency has also conducted inspections to review the implementation of these requirements and has monitored the action of plant operators in response to changing threat conditions. The NRC will continue security inspections during 2004.

Current performance indicators and inspection findings for Fermi 2 are available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/FERM2/ferm2_chart.html

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