



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC TO MEET WITH EXELON GENERATION CO. TO DISCUSS PERFORMANCE OF BYRON NUCLEAR PLANT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with representatives of Exelon Generation Company on Wednesday, April 21, to discuss the results of the agency's assessment of safety performance at the Byron Nuclear Power Station during 2003. The facility, which has two reactor units, is located near Byron, Illinois.

The meeting will be held at 1 p.m. at the Jarrett Prairie Center in the Byron Forest Preserve, 7993 North River Road, Byron. 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 has concluded that the plant operated safely last year, and plant performance does not require additional inspections beyond the normal inspection program. Routine inspections are performed by the two resident inspectors assigned to the plant and by inspection specialists from the NRC's Region III office in Lisle, Illinois.

A March 4 letter from the NRC to Exelon officials addresses the performance of the plant during 2003 and will serve as the basis for the meeting discussion. It is available online at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/byro_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 each Byron unit are available on the NRC web site at:

(Byron 1) http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/BYRO1/byro1_chart.html and (Byron 2) http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/BYRO2/byro2_chart.html

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