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Contact: Diane Screnici, 610/337-5330
Neil Sheehan, 610/337-5331

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E-mail: opa1@nrc.gov

NRC TO DISCUSS PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF LICENSE RENEWAL INSPECTION FOR PILGRIM NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The preliminary results of an NRC inspection associated with the license renewal application for the Pilgrim nuclear power plant will be presented during a public meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 30. The purpose of the inspection, which was conducted from Sept. 8 to Dec. 5, 2006, was to examine whether the plant's program for managing the effects of aging on key safety systems, structures and components is adequate and appropriate for a 20-year license extension.

NRC staff will discuss the results of the inspection with representatives of Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc., which owns and operates the Plymouth, Mass., facility. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn, located at 4 Home Depot Drive (near Long Pond Road) in Plymouth. There will also be an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions about the review prior to the meeting's adjournment.

On Jan. 25, 2006, Entergy submitted an application to renew the operating license for the Pilgrim plant for an additional 20 years. The current operating license for the Pilgrim plant is due to expire on June 8, 2012. Under NRC regulations, the original operating license for a commercial nuclear power plant has a term of 40 years. The license can be renewed for up to an additional two decades if NRC requirements are met.

The aging management inspection is one of a number of NRC activities involved in evaluating a license renewal application.

Additional information concerning license renewal in general and the Pilgrim application in particular can be found at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal.html>.

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