



NRC NEWS

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NRC TO DISCUSS 2006 ASSESSMENT FOR THREE MILE ISLAND NUCLEAR PLANT AT PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 11

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's annual assessment of safety performance at the Three Mile Island Unit 1 nuclear power plant, in Middletown, Pa., will be the subject of a public meeting on Wednesday, April 11.

NRC staff will meet with representatives of plant owner AmerGen Energy Co., LLC, at 7 p.m. to discuss the assessment, which covers the period from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2006, and was documented in a March 2nd letter to the company. The session will take place at Londonderry Town Hall, 738 S. Geyers Church Road in Middletown.

Before the meeting is adjourned, NRC staff will be available to answer questions from the public on the performance of the Three Mile Island Unit 1 plant, as well as the role of the NRC in providing oversight of plant safety.

"Each year we take a step back to size up plant performance during the previous calendar year, with the overarching goal of ensuring that facilities are achieving the levels of safety that are essential to protecting the public and the environment," said NRC Region I Administrator Samuel J. Collins, who noted the agency also conducts mid-year assessments of performance. "At the meeting on April 11th, members of the public will receive information about how we go about that review process for Three Mile Island and other nuclear power plants across the nation. The NRC staff will also be prepared to answer questions from attendees."

The annual assessment letter for Three Mile Island Unit 1 is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/tmi_2006q4.pdf. The notice for the meeting, with agenda attached, is available in the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) under accession number ML070851468. The meeting slides are available under accession number ML070851386. ADAMS is accessible at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. Help in using ADAMS is available via the NRC's Public Document Room at 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail at PDR@NRC.GOV.

Overall, Three Mile Island Unit 1 operated safely during 2006. The NRC utilizes color-coded

inspection findings and performance indicators to assess nuclear power plant performance. The colors start with “green” and then increase to “white,” “yellow” or “red,” commensurate with the safety significance of the issues involved. Because all of the performance indicators for the Three Mile Island Unit 1 were determined to be “green” and there were no inspection findings greater than “green” at the end of 2006, the plant will receive the baseline, or routine, level of inspections in 2007.

Three Mile Island Unit 1 did have a “white” inspection finding open during the first quarter of last year. That finding was related to the untimely conduct of required annual classroom retraining for some members of the plant’s emergency response organization. The issue was identified during a November 2004 emergency preparedness program inspection. From Feb. 27 to March 14, 2006, the NRC conducted a supplemental inspection to determine whether AmerGen had made sufficient progress in addressing the problem. When the agency concluded that was the case, the finding was closed out in the first quarter of 2006.

Routine inspections are performed by two NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant and by inspection specialists from the Region I Office in King of Prussia, Pa. Among the areas of plant performance to be inspected this year by NRC specialists are containment sump modifications, emergency preparedness and radiological protection.

Current performance information for Three Mile Island Unit 1 is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/TMI1/tmi1_chart.html .

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