



NRC NEWS

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NRC TO DISCUSS 2006 ASSESSMENTS FOR SALEM, HOPE CREEK NUCLEAR PLANTS AT PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 23

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's annual assessment of safety performance at the Salem and Hope Creek nuclear power plants, in Hancocks Bridge (Salem County), N.J., will be the subject of a public meeting on Monday, April 23.

NRC staff will meet with representatives of plant owner PSEG Nuclear, LLC, at 7 p.m. to discuss the assessments, which cover the period from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2006, and were documented in a March 2nd letter to the company. The session will take place at the Bridgeport Holiday Inn, One Pureland Drive in Swedesboro, N.J. The hotel is located off Exit 10 of Interstate 295.

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

"Each year we 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 23rd, we will explain how we go about that review process for Salem and Hope Creek, as well as other nuclear power plants across the nation. The NRC staff will also be prepared to answer questions from attendees."

The annual assessment letter for the Hope Creek plant is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/hope_2006q4.pdf. The annual assessment for the twin-reactor Salem plant can be found on the same web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/salm_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 ML070950527. 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, the Hope Creek and Salem plants 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 plants were determined to be “green” and there were no inspection findings greater than “green” at the end of 2006, the facilities will receive the baseline, or routine, level of inspections in 2007.

Routine inspections are performed by four NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to the plants 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 activities associated with emergency preparedness, radiological protection and problem identification and resolution. There will also be inspections related to a 15-percent power uprate proposed for Hope Creek and of Salem Unit 1 containment sump modifications.

Current performance information for Hope Creek is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/HOPE/hope_chart.html .

Current performance information for Salem Unit 1 is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/SALM1/salm1_chart.html .

Current performance information for Salem Unit 2 is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/SALM2/salm2_chart.html .

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