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# NRC NEWS

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## **NRC TO DISCUSS 2006 PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FOR DAVIS-BESSE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with representatives of FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company on Wednesday, Aug. 8, to discuss the agency's assessment of safety performance for last year at the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant. The plant is located at Oak Harbor, Ohio.

The meeting, which will be open to the public, is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. at the Energy Education Center, Davis-Besse Administration Building, 5501 North State Route 2, near Oak Harbor. The NRC staff will present the results of the assessment and be available to respond to questions or comments from the public before the close of the meeting.

"The NRC continually reviews the performance of the Davis-Besse plant and the nation's other commercial nuclear power facilities," NRC Region III Administrator James Caldwell said. "This meeting will provide an opportunity for a discussion of our annual assessment of safety performance with the company and with local officials and residents who live near the plant. Our goal is to explain the NRC oversight process and make as much information as possible available to the public regarding our regulation of these facilities."

A letter sent from the NRC Region III Office to plant officials addresses the performance of the plant during the period and will serve as the basis for the meeting discussion. It is available on the NRC web site at: [http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/davi\\_2006q4.pdf](http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/davi_2006q4.pdf).

The NRC's assessment concluded that the Davis-Besse plant operated safely during the period. The NRC uses color-coded inspection findings and performance indicators to assess nuclear plant performance. The colors start with "green" and then increase to "white," "yellow" or "red," commensurate with the safety significance of the issues involved.

All of the inspection findings and performance indicators for Davis-Besse during 2006 were determined to be "green." As a result of this performance, the NRC will conduct the normal, baseline level of inspections during the upcoming year.

Routine inspections were performed by two NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant and by inspection specialists from the Region III Office in Lisle, Ill., and the agency's headquarters in Rockville, Md. Among the areas of plant operations to be inspected this year by NRC specialists are

fire protection, plant security, emergency preparedness, radiation protection, and preparation for reactor vessel head replacement.

FirstEnergy has been conducting annual independent assessments of Engineering, Corrective Action, Operations and Safety Culture at the plant since 2004 under the terms of an NRC Confirmatory Order. The NRC will continue to conduct inspection activities to review these assessments, in addition to the baseline inspection program.

Current performance information for Davis-Besse is available on the NRC's web site at: [http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/DAVI/davi\\_chart.html](http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/DAVI/davi_chart.html).

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