



# NRC NEWS

## U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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### **NRC TO DISCUSS BEAVER VALLEY NUCLEAR PLANT ANNUAL ASSESSMENT AT PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 25 IN MIDLAND, PA.**

The results of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's annual safety performance assessment for the Beaver Valley nuclear power plant will be discussed at a public meeting on Tuesday, March 25.

Scheduled to begin at 7 p.m., the session will take place in the Studio Theatre Performance Area at the Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center, 935 Ohio Ave. in Midland, Pa. Directions to the center are available at: <http://www.lppac.org/directions.php>. Prior to the conclusion of the meeting, NRC staff will be available to answer questions from the public on the plant's performance, as well as the agency's oversight of the facility.

Beaver Valley is twin-reactor plant located in Shippingport (Beaver County), Pa., and owned by FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Co.

"Through a combination of inspection findings and performance indicators, we are able to develop a comprehensive picture of how nuclear power plants are performing with regard to safety," said NRC Region I Administrator Samuel J. Collins. "As part of our commitment to make the findings of our reviews accessible to the public, we hold meetings near each plant once a year to share the details of those assessments. We look forward to the opportunity on March 25<sup>th</sup> to present that information for the Beaver Valley nuclear power plant."

The annual assessment letter for Beaver Valley is available on the NRC web site at: [http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/by\\_2007q4.pdf](http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/by_2007q4.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 ML080700965. The meeting slides are available under accession number ML080700393. ADAMS is accessible at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.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](mailto:PDR@NRC.GOV).

Overall, the Beaver Valley plant operated safely during 2007. When considering nuclear power plant performance, the NRC uses color-coded performance indicators and inspection findings. The colors start with “green” and then increase to “white,” “yellow” or “red,” commensurate with the safety significance of the issues involved.

During the first two quarters of 2007, the plant had a “white” (low to moderate safety significance) inspection finding in the area of emergency preparedness. The finding stemmed from a dose assessment procedure inadequacy that could have resulted in untimely protective action recommendations. In June of last year, the NRC completed a supplemental inspection to determine if FirstEnergy had taken the appropriate steps to address the issue and prevent recurrence. The NRC found that had occurred and therefore the finding was closed out as of the end of second quarter.

At the conclusion of last year, there were no performance indicators for Beaver Valley that were other than “green” and no inspection findings that were “greater than green.” Therefore, the plant will receive the baseline, or routine, level of inspections for the remainder of 2008.

Routine inspections are carried out by the two NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant and by inspection specialists from the agency’s Region I Office in King of Prussia, Pa. Among the areas of performance at Beaver Valley to be inspected this year by NRC specialists are activities associated with emergency preparedness, radiological safety and control room operator licensing exams. In addition, the NRC will conduct inspections related to the plant’s license renewal application and an Extended Power Uprate for Unit 2.

Current performance information for Beaver Valley Unit 1 is available on the NRC web site at: [http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/BV1/bv1\\_chart.html](http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/BV1/bv1_chart.html) . Current performance information for Beaver Valley Unit 2 is available on the NRC web site at: [http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/BV2/bv2\\_chart.html](http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/BV2/bv2_chart.html) .

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