



NRC NEWS

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Contacts:

E-Mail: opa3@nrc.gov

Viktoria Mitlyng 630-829-9662
Prema Chandrathil 630-829-9663

Web site: www.nrc.gov

NRC TO DISCUSS 2007 PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FOR CLINTON NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with representatives of AmerGen Energy Co. Thursday, May 15, to discuss the agency's assessment of safety performance for last year at the Clinton Nuclear Power Plant. The plant is located in Clinton, Ill.

The meeting, which will be open to the public, is scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. CDT at Warner Library, 31 North Quincy Street, Clinton. The NRC staff will present the results of the assessment, talk about the NRC and its range of activities, 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 Clinton plant and the nation's other commercial nuclear power facilities," NRC Region III Administrator James Caldwell said. "This meeting allows us to discuss our annual assessment of safety performance with the company and with local officials and area residents. Our goal is to explain how the NRC works and make sure the public understands 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/clin_2007q4.pdf.

The NRC's assessment concluded that the Clinton 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 Clinton during 2007 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.

The NRC letter identified one “white” finding, meaning it had a low to moderate significance that occurred in 2006. The finding was associated with improper design margins for the high pressure core spray system. The high pressure core spray system is used to provide water to the reactor in certain accident conditions. The utility took corrective actions to address the problem. Based upon on the NRC review and inspection of the utility’s corrective actions no significant issues were identified.

Routine inspections are 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, radiation protection, and reactor system operations.

Current performance information for Clinton is available on the NRC’s web site at:
http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/CLIN/clin_chart.html.

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