



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC OPEN HOUSE APRIL 3 IN SCRIBA, N.Y., TO DISCUSS PERFORMANCE OF NINE MILE POINT, FITZPATRICK NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will hold a public open house on Wednesday, April 3, to discuss the agency's annual review of safety performance at the Nine Mile Point and James A. FitzPatrick nuclear power plants.

During the open house, scheduled for 4-6 p.m. at Scriba Town Hall, 42 Creamery Road in Oswego, N.Y., attendees will have an opportunity to hold one-on-one discussions with NRC staff members about the plants' 2012 performance and the agency's oversight of the facilities. NRC staff on hand will include the inspectors assigned to the plants on a full-time basis and their supervisors.

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, signifying increasing safety significance of the issues involved. Performance indicators are statistical measurements of plant and equipment performance.

Overall, Nine Mile Point, consisting of two boiling-water reactors located in Scriba and owned by Constellation Energy Nuclear Group LLC, operated safely during 2012. Likewise, FitzPatrick, a single boiling-water reactor also located in Scriba and owned by Entergy Nuclear Northeast, operated safely. For Nine Mile Point 2, as assessed through the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process, there were no inspection findings greater than green (rising to the level requiring additional NRC oversight) or any performance other than green (exceeding the threshold for the indicator and requiring additional NRC oversight). Therefore, Nine Mile Point 2 will continue to receive the NRC's normal level of oversight for the remainder of 2012, barring any changes.

However, Nine Mile Point 1 and FitzPatrick both had performance indicators change from green to white during 2012. Consequently, the units will receive additional scrutiny until the NRC is satisfied the relevant issues have been properly evaluated and satisfactory corrective actions have been developed and implemented.

The performance indicator that changed for Nine Mile Point 1 involves unplanned scrams, or shutdowns, per 7,000 hours of operation. If a plant has more than three unplanned scrams during that period of time, the indicator changes from green to white. At the end of 2012, the Nine Mile Point 1 rolling average for that indicator stood at 3.5. For FitzPatrick, the performance indicator that changed tracks the number of unplanned power changes per 7,000 hours of operation. If that total exceeds six during that period of time, the indicator will move from green to white. That rolling average was tallied at 6.5 at the end of 2012 for FitzPatrick.

Plants that meet NRC criteria receive the normal level of oversight, which still consists of a detailed regime involving thousands of hours of inspection. In 2012, the agency devoted approximately 6,700 hours of inspection to the Nine Mile Point plant and approximately 5,800 hours of inspection to the FitzPatrick plant.

“When the time comes to evaluate a plant’s performance for the previous year, we take a fresh look at any and all issues that might be of concern. We then adjust our plans for assessing the facility accordingly,” NRC Region I Administrator Bill Dean said. “With respect to Nine Mile Point 1 and FitzPatrick, our Reactor Oversight Process dictates that further attention is needed at both units following a change in a performance indicator for each.”

The agency issues reports on performance at each plant twice a year: during the mid-cycle, or mid-point, of the year, and at the conclusion of the year. Inspection findings and performance indicators are also updated quarterly on the NRC’s website, www.nrc.gov. Following the release of the annual reports every March, the NRC meets with the public in the vicinity of each plant to discuss the results. The sessions are in keeping with the agency’s commitment to transparency with respect to its activities.

Routine inspections are carried out by the two NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to each plant and by inspection specialists from the agency’s Region I Office in King of Prussia, Pa. Among the areas of performance to be inspected at Nine Mile Point this year by NRC specialists are activities associated with emergency preparedness, problem identification and resolution, and permanent plant modifications, while focus areas at FitzPatrick reviews will include radiological safety, the dry cask storage of spent nuclear fuel and underground pipes and tanks.

The annual assessment letters for [Nine Mile Point](#) and [FitzPatrick](#), as well as the meeting notice for the [April 3 open house](#), are available on the NRC website. Current performance information is also available for [Nine Mile Point 1](#), [Nine Mile Point 2](#) and [FitzPatrick](#).

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