



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING APRIL 30th IN BRATTLEBORO, TO DISCUSS VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR PLANT ANNUAL ASSESSMENT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will conduct a public open house, followed by a question-and-answer session, on April 30 to discuss the agency's annual review of safety performance at the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant.

The open house is scheduled for 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room at Brattleboro Union High School, at 131 Fairground Road in Brattleboro, Vt. It will provide an opportunity for attendees to hold one-on-one discussions with NRC staff members about the plant's 2012 performance and the agency's oversight of the facility. Then, beginning at 7 p.m. at the same location, the NRC staff will hold a group question-and-answer session regarding plant performance and oversight topics. There will be a security bag search for all attending.

Overall, Vermont Yankee, which is a single boiling-water reactor located in Vernon, Vt., operated safely during 2012. At the end of the fourth quarter of 2012, the plant did not have any inspection findings that were greater than green (rising to the level requiring additional NRC oversight) or any performance indicators that were other than green (exceeding the threshold for the indicator and requiring additional NRC oversight). As a result, Vermont Yankee will continue to receive the NRC's normal level of oversight during 2013.

Plants that meet criteria set out by the NRC 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 5,780 hours of inspection to the Vermont Yankee plant, which is owned by Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.

“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. “As we map out our inspection plans for the remainder of 2013, we remain focused on ensuring that safety is the foremost objective for all plant operators.”

The NRC uses a combination of color-coded inspection findings and performance indicators to assess plant performance. The colors begin with green and then increase to white, yellow or red, commensurate with the risk significance of the issues involved. 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 on the NRC's [website](#) each quarter. 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.

The [annual assessment letter](#), [current performance information](#), and the [open house notice](#) for Vermont Yankee are available on the NRC website.

Routine inspections are carried out by the 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 Vermont Yankee this year by NRC specialists are activities associated with the dry cask storage of spent nuclear fuel, underground piping and tanks, emergency planning, fire protection and radiological safety.

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