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NRC Schedules Open House for April 3rd to Discuss Performance of Beaver Valley Nuclear Power Plant

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will conduct an open house on Thursday, April 3, to discuss the agency's annual review of safety performance at the Beaver Valley nuclear power plant.

During the open house, scheduled for 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Shippingport Community and Municipal Building, at 164 State Road 3016 in Shippingport, Pa., members of the public will be able to hold one-on-one discussions with NRC staff regarding the plant's performance in 2013, as well as the agency's oversight plans for the facility this year. NRC staff in attendance will include the NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant on a full-time basis and their supervisor.

Under the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process, color-coded inspection findings and performance indicators are used to assess plant performance. (Performance indicators are statistical measurements of plant and equipment performance which, if exceeded, trigger additional NRC oversight.) The colors range from green, connoting very low safety or security significance, to white, yellow or red, for an issue of high significance.

Overall, the Beaver Valley plant — located in Shippingport (Beaver County) and owned and operated by FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Co. — performed safely during 2013. At the conclusion of last year, as assessed by the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process, there were no performance indicators for the plants that were other than "green" (very low risk) and no inspection findings that were "greater than green" (that is, none of the findings exceeded very low safety significance). As a result, Beaver Valley will continue to receive the NRC's normal level of oversight during 2013, barring any changes.

The normal level of oversight consists of a detailed regime entailing thousands of hours of inspection. In 2013, the NRC devoted approximately 6,600 hours of inspection at Beaver Valley.

"We take very seriously the task of stepping back on a regular basis to size up plant performance. These comprehensive evaluations help guide our reviews for the year ahead, though we maintain flexibility to adjust what we plan to inspect should conditions change," NRC Region I Administrator Bill Dean said. "Beaver Valley, by virtue of its performance in 2013, will receive our routine — though still substantial — battery of inspections."

The NRC 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 a quarterly basis on the agency's [website](#). Following the release of the Annual Assessment letters each March, the NRC meets with the public in the vicinity of each plant to discuss the results.

Normal inspections are carried out by the two Resident Inspectors assigned to Beaver Valley. Reviews are also performed at the sites by specialist inspectors assigned to the agency's Region I Office in King of Prussia, Pa. Among the areas to be inspected this year at Beaver Valley are the plant's radiological safety program, emergency planning and the initial use of a dry cask storage facility for spent nuclear fuel.

The [Annual Assessment letter](#) for Beaver Valley, as well as the [meeting notice](#) for the April 3rd open house, are available on the NRC website. Current performance information is also available for [Beaver Valley 1](#) and [Beaver Valley 2](#).