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NRC to Meet With Entergy May 28 to Discuss Performance of Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will hold a public meeting May 28 to discuss the agency's annual review of safety performance at the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant, which is located Vernon (Windham County), Vt.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium at Brattleboro Union High School, at 131 Fairground Road in Brattleboro, Vt. It will include a brief presentation on the decommissioning process followed by a formal question-and-answer session regarding plant performance and regulatory oversight topics. There will be a security bag search at the entrance to the meeting.

Overall, the Vermont Yankee plant, which is owned and operated by Entergy Nuclear Operations Inc., operated safely during 2013, with no findings exceeding very low safety significance. As a result, Vermont Yankee will continue to receive the NRC's normal level of oversight for the remainder of 2014, 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 5,940 hours of inspection at Vermont Yankee, a boiling-water reactor that began operations in 1972 and that is scheduled to permanently cease operations in late 2014.

"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 should conditions change," NRC Region I Administrator Bill Dean said. "Vermont Yankee, 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 vicinity of each plant to discuss the results.

Normal inspections are carried out by the two Resident Inspectors assigned to Vermont Yankee. Reviews are also performed at the site 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 Vermont Yankee are emergency preparedness, radiological protection and control room operator training.

The [annual assessment letter](#) for Vermont Yankee, as well as the [notice](#) for the May 28 public meeting, are available on the NRC website. Current performance information is also available for [Vermont Yankee](#).