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NRC Schedules Open House July 15 to Discuss Performance of Byron Nuclear Power Plant

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will hold a public open house July 15 to discuss the agency's annual assessment of safety performance for the Byron nuclear power plant. The two-unit plant is operated by Exelon Generation Co., and is located in Byron, Ill., approximately 17 miles southwest of Rockford.

The open house is scheduled for 6-7:30 p.m. CDT at the Byron Station Training Building, Rm. 107, 4450 N. German Church Road, in Byron. Attendees can have one-on-one discussions with NRC staff members about the plant's 2013 performance and the agency's oversight of the facility.

"NRC inspectors spend a significant amount of time monitoring a wide range of plant activities to ensure the plant operates safely. Our hands-on approach is a key factor in protecting the public and environment," said NRC Region III Administrator Cynthia D. Pederson. "We hold public meetings near the plant every year to make our inspectors available and accessible to answer questions and have open discussions about NRC oversight with those who live near the plant."

The [annual assessment letter](#) sent from the NRC Region III office to the company addresses the performance of the plant during 2013 and will serve as the basis for the discussion.

Overall, the Byron facility operated safely in 2013. All performance indicators and inspection findings for Byron were green and both units remained in Column 1 of the action matrix. As a result, Byron Unit 1 and Unit 2 will continue to receive the NRC's normal level of oversight during 2014.

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. Performance indicators are statistical measurements of plant and equipment performance. The NRC's action matrix reflects overall plant performance and agency response. There are five columns in the matrix with Column 1 requiring a baseline level of inspections. A move to the other columns results in an increased level of NRC oversight and inspections.

Inspections are performed by two NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant, inspection specialists from the Region III Office in Lisle, Ill., and specialists from the agency's headquarters in Rockville, Md. Among the areas of performance to be inspected this year by NRC inspectors are activities associated with radiological safety, equipment designs, and emergency preparedness.

The most current performance information for Byron [Unit 1](#) and [Unit 2](#) is available on the NRC website.