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NRC to Conduct Open House on April 16th in Prince Frederick, Md., to Discuss 2014 Performance of Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will hold a public open house on April 16 in Prince Frederick, Md., to discuss the agency's annual review of safety performance at the Calvert Cliffs nuclear power plant.

NRC staff will be on hand from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Springhill Suites hotel, located at 75 Sherry Lane in Prince Frederick. Agency employees responsible for inspections of the plant, including the Resident Inspectors based at the Lusby (Calvert County), Md., site on a full-time basis, will be available to discuss the facility's performance in 2014 and the agency's oversight plans for 2015.

Under the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process, the agency gauges plant performance through the use of color-coded inspection findings and performance indicators, which are statistical measurements of plant performance that can trigger additional oversight if exceeded.

The twin-reactor Calvert Cliffs plant is owned and operated by Exelon. On an overall basis, the plant operated safely in 2014. As of the end of last year, Calvert Cliffs Unit 1 had no inspection findings or performance indicators that were greater than "green" (very low safety significance). Therefore, that unit is currently under the NRC's normal level of oversight.

Unit 2, however, was under additional NRC oversight as of the end of 2014 due to a "white" (low to moderate safety significance) inspection finding resulting from a failure to maintain an adequate standard emergency action level scheme because of inaccurate effluent radiation monitor thresholds. The NRC conducted a supplemental inspection at the plant during the week of Feb. 2, 2015, to assess Exelon's root-cause evaluation of the underlying issues and its corrective actions. Based on the results of that inspection, which were documented in a March 10th report, the finding has been closed out and Unit 2 returned to the normal level of oversight as of the start of the second quarter of 2015.

"Our process called for the stepped-up scrutiny at Calvert Cliffs Unit 2 in response to the 'white' inspection finding. We have now performed an inspection to ensure that the company appropriately evaluated the underlying issues and put in place changes that can prevent a recurrence. Our review found the company's actions to be satisfactory," NRC Region I Administrator Dan Dorman said. "More broadly, our annual assessments serve to help us focus our inspection resources on those areas where attention is most needed."

The NRC's normal level of oversight at each U.S. nuclear power plant involves thousands of hours of inspection. In 2014, the agency devoted approximately 6,450 hours of review at Calvert Cliffs.

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 performed by two Resident Inspectors assigned to Calvert Cliffs. Reviews are also carried out 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 Calvert Cliffs are emergency preparedness, the plant's problem identification and resolution program, radioactive solid waste processing and radioactive material handling, storage and transportation.

The Annual Assessment letter for [Calvert Cliffs](#), as well as the [notice](#) for the April 16th open house, are available on the NRC website. Current performance information is also available for [Calvert Cliffs Unit 1](#) and [Calvert Cliffs Unit 2](#).