

No: IV-16-008

April 5, 2016

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NRC Will Hold an Open House on River Bend Nuclear Plant Performance

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold an open house April 19 to discuss the agency's assessment of the River Bend nuclear power plant's 2015 safety performance. The plant is located in St. Francisville, La.

NRC staff will be on hand from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. at the Town Hall Meeting Room of the St. Francisville Town Hall, 11936 Ferdinand St. in St. Francisville. While there are no formal presentations during the open house, the public will have an opportunity to ask about NRC's assessment of the plant's performance in 2015 and the agency's oversight plans for 2016. Among the NRC staff in attendance will be the Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant on a full-time basis.

NRC assesses plant performance through the use of inspection findings and other indicators that can trigger additional regulatory oversight if needed. Overall, River Bend operated safely during 2015, but is receiving additional oversight as a result of an inspection finding of low to moderate safety significance related to an unplanned reactor shutdown that occurred on Dec. 25, 2014.

Following that shutdown, some problems were experienced with the plant's feedwater system, which supplies short-term cooling water to the reactor core. Several electrical circuit breakers also failed to operate properly. The NRC will conduct an additional inspection during 2016 to verify that Entergy officials have taken appropriate corrective actions to prevent recurrence.

"The NRC continually reviews the performance of River Bend and the nation's other commercial nuclear power plants," NRC Region IV Administrator Marc Dapas said. "The open house will provide an opportunity for a discussion of our annual assessment of safety performance with local officials and residents who live near the plant."

Inspections are performed by two NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant and by specialist inspectors from the Region IV office in Arlington, Texas, and the agency's headquarters in Rockville, Md.

A [letter](#) sent from the NRC Region IV office to plant officials addresses the performance of the plant during 2015. Current performance information for the plant can be found on the NRC [website](#).