



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC TO DISCUSS 2007 PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FOR DRESDEN NUCLEAR POWER PLANT UNIT 2 AND 3

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with representatives of Exelon Generation Co. Wednesday, April 30, to discuss the agency's assessment of safety performance for last year at the Dresden Nuclear Power Plant. The plant has two reactor units near Morris, Ill. A third reactor was shutdown in 1978 and is in decommissioning status.

The meeting, which will be open to the public, is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. CDT at the Grundy County Administration Center, 1320 Union Street, Morris. The NRC staff will present the results of the assessment, talk about the NRC and its range of activities, and be available to respond to questions or comments from the public before the close of the meeting.

"The NRC continually reviews the performance of the Dresden plant and the nation's other commercial nuclear power facilities," NRC Region III Administrator James Caldwell said. "This meeting allows us to discuss our annual assessment of safety performance with the company and with local officials and area residents. Our goal is to explain how the NRC works and make sure as much information as possible is available on our regulation of these facilities."

A letter sent from the NRC Region III Office to plant officials addresses the performance of the plant during the period and will serve as the basis for the meeting discussion. It is available on the NRC web site at:
http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/dres_2007q4.pdf.

The NRC's assessment concluded Dresden Units 2 and 3 operated safely during the period. As a result of this performance, the NRC will conduct normal, baseline level of inspections during the upcoming year.

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.

All of the inspection findings and performance indicators for Dresden during 2007 were

determined to be “green,” with the exception of one performance indicator for Unit 2. Performance indicators are a statistical measurement of plant and equipment performance.

Unit 2’s performance indicator remained “white” for the first half of the 2007 as a result of several automatic reactor shutdowns in 2006 into 2007. A white performance indicator is one of low to moderate safety significance. The NRC conducted supplemental inspections to ensure corrective actions were taken for the performance indicator problems. No significant findings were identified. The NRC will conduct the normal, baseline level of inspections during the upcoming year.

Routine inspections are performed by two NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant and by inspection specialists from the Region III Office in Lisle, Ill., and the agency’s headquarters in Rockville, Md. Among the areas of plant operations to be inspected this year by NRC specialists are problem identification and resolution, emergency preparedness, and engineering modifications.

Current performance information for Dresden is available on the NRC’s web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/DRES2/dres2_chart.html (Unit 2) and http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/DRES3/dres3_chart.html (Unit 3).

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