



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC TO DISCUSS 2009 PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FOR BYRON NUCLEAR POWER ON JUNE 2

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold a public meeting with representatives of Exelon Generation Co. on Wednesday, June 2, to discuss the agency's assessment of safety performance for last year at the Byron Nuclear Power Plant. The plant has two reactor units in Byron, Ill., located roughly 15 miles southwest of Rockford.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. CDT at the Byron Station Training Center, Room 107, 4450 N. German Church Road, Byron. 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 Byron plant and the nation's other commercial nuclear power facilities," NRC Region III Administrator Mark Satorius said. "This meeting allows us to discuss our annual assessment of safety performance with the company and area residents. One of NRC's main goals is to explain to people in the community how the agency regulates nuclear power plants."

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/byro_2009q4.pdf.

The NRC found that overall the Byron nuclear plant operated safely and performance at both units was at a level that resulted in no additional NRC oversight. 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 performance indicators and inspection findings for Byron during 2009 were determined to be "green." Performance indicators are a statistical measurement of plant and equipment performance.

Byron will continue to receive the detailed inspection regime used by the NRC for plants that require no additional oversight. 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 are radiation protection, fire protection and the independent spent fuel storage installation.

Current performance information for Byron is available on the NRC's web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/BYRO1/byro1_chart.html (Unit 1) and http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/BYRO2/byro2_chart.html (Unit 2).

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