



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs, Region I
475 Allendale Road, King of Prussia, Pa. 19406

E-mail: opa1@nrc.gov

Site: www.nrc.gov

Blog: <http://public-blog.nrc-gateway.gov>

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Contact: Diane Screnci, (610) 337-5330
Neil Sheehan, (610) 337-5331

Email: OPA1.RESOURCE@nrc.gov

NRC TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING ON MAY 10th IN SALEM, N.J., TO DISCUSS ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF SALEM, HOPE CREEK NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, May 10, regarding the agency's annual assessment of safety performance for the Salem and Hope Creek nuclear power plants during 2010.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. at the PSEG Energy & Environmental Resource Center, at 244 Chestnut St. in Salem, N.J. Prior to the session's conclusion, there will be an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions of the NRC staff regarding the plants' performance, as well as the agency's oversight of the units.

Salem, which is the site of two pressurized-water reactors, and Hope Creek, which is a single boiling-water reactor, are located adjacent to each other in Hancocks Bridge (Salem County), N.J. The units are operated by PSEG Nuclear, LLC.

"Our Annual Assessment reviews allow us to step back and gauge whether the nuclear power plants we regulate are on the right track in terms of performance and adhering to the highest levels of safety," NRC Region I Administrator Bill Dean said. "Once we've completed these evaluations, we reach out to the public to share that information and to receive their feedback at a location near each plant. We welcome and value these exchanges."

The NRC utilizes a combination of color-coded inspection findings and performance indicators to measure plant performance. The colors start with "green", representing very low safety significance, and increase to "white", "yellow" or "red", commensurate with the significance of the issues involved.

Overall, the Salem 1 and 2 reactors and the Hope Creek reactor operated safely during 2010. At the conclusion of last year, as assessed through the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process, there were no inspection findings that were other than "Green" or any performance indicators that were "Greater than Green" for the Salem and Hope Creek units. Therefore, for the rest of 2011, the plants will receive the normal, very detailed inspection regime used by the NRC for plants that are operating well.

Routine inspections are carried out by two NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to each plant and by inspection specialists from the agency's Region I Office in King of Prussia, Pa. In 2010, the NRC devoted about 6,900 hours to inspection of the Salem units and about 5,300 hours to inspection of Hope Creek, including three major team inspections for Salem and two major team inspections for Hope Creek. Among the areas at Salem being inspected this year are radioactive waste processing and handling, the plant's radiological environmental monitoring program and its problem identification and resolution program. Among the areas at Hope Creek being inspected this year are emergency preparedness, permanent plant modifications and radiological safety.

The agency issues its review of performance at specific plants twice a year. Inspection findings and performance indicators are also updated on the NRC's website, www.nrc.gov, each quarter. Following the release of the annual performance reviews every March, the public is provided with an opportunity to discuss the results. The meetings, which are held in the vicinity of the plant, are in keeping with the NRC's commitment to transparency and openness with regard to its activities.

The annual assessment letter for Salem 1 and 2 is available on the NRC website at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/salm_2010q4.pdf. The annual assessment letter for Hope Creek is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/hope_2010q4.pdf. The notice for the public meeting is available in the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) under accession number MLML111170317. ADAMS is available at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. Help in using ADAMS can be obtained via the NRC's Public Document Room at 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail at: PDR.Resources@NRC.GOV.

Current performance information for Salem Unit 1 is available on the NRC website at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/SALM1/salm1_chart.html. Current performance information for Salem Unit 2 is available on the NRC website at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/SALM2/salm2_chart.html. Current performance information for Hope Creek is available on the NRC website at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/HOPE/hope_chart.html.

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