



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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No. I-11-010

May 2, 2011

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NRC TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING ON MAY 12th IN PRINCE FREDERICK, MD., TO DISCUSS ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF CALVERT CLIFFS NUCLEAR PLANT

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold a public meeting on Thursday, May 12, regarding the agency's annual assessment of safety performance for the Calvert Cliffs nuclear power plant during 2010.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. at the SpringHill Suites hotel, at 75 Sherry Lane in Prince Frederick, Md. 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 plant's performance, as well as the agency's oversight of the facility.

Calvert Cliffs is the site of two pressurized-water reactors. It is located in Lusby (Calvert County), Md., and is owned and operated by Constellation Energy.

"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 Calvert Cliffs Unit 1 and 2 reactors 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 "Greater than Green" or any performance indicators that were other than "Green" for Calvert Cliffs Unit 1. Therefore, for the remainder of 2011, it will receive the normal, very detailed inspection regime used by the NRC for plants that are operating well.

While Calvert Cliffs Unit 2 had no performance indicators other than "Green," it did have a "White" (low to moderate safety significance) inspection finding. The finding involved the failure to implement scheduled preventative maintenance on safety-related time delay relays used to ensure

the operation of one of the plant's emergency diesel generators, which provide back-up power for safety systems in the event of a loss of off-site electricity. Because this maintenance was not performed, a relay failure caused the emergency diesel generator to cease operating prematurely on Feb. 18, 2010. The plant's other emergency diesel generators remained available and were used during the event, and the plant was safely shut down.

In response to the "White" finding, the NRC conducted a supplemental inspection at Calvert Cliffs Unit 2 from March 16 to 18, 2011, to independently verify whether Constellation understood the root and contributing causes of the issue; had identified the extent of the condition; and had taken appropriate corrective actions to prevent a recurrence. The results of that inspection determined that the company had identified all root and contributing causes, appropriately addressed whether similar systems had similar issues, and put in place appropriate steps to prevent the problem from occurring once again.

Calvert Cliffs Unit 2 will also receive the normal suite of NRC inspections during 2011.

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 6,800 hours to inspection of Calvert Cliffs, including two major team inspections. Among the areas at Calvert Cliffs being inspected this year are radioactive material handling and transportation; permanent plant modifications; emergency preparedness; and the plant's problem identification and resolution program.

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 Calvert Cliffs Units 1 and 2 is available on the NRC website at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/calv_2010q4.pdf. The notice for the public meeting is available in the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) under accession number ML111180291. 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 Calvert Cliffs Unit 1 is available on the NRC website at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/CALV1/calv1_chart.html. Current performance information for Calvert Cliffs Unit 2 is available on the NRC website at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/CALV2/calv2_chart.html.

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