



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING ON JUNE 2ND IN CORTLANDT MANOR, N.Y., TO DISCUSS ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF INDIAN POINT NUCLEAR PLANT

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold a public meeting on Thursday, June 2, regarding the agency's annual assessment of safety performance for the Indian Point nuclear power plant during 2010.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Colonial Terrace catering facility, at 119 Oregon Road in Cortlandt Manor, N.Y. (Directions to the facility are available at: <http://colonialterracecaterers.com/directions.htm>.) 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.

Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc., owns and operates Indian Point, which is the site of two operating pressurized-water reactors and is located in Buchanan (Westchester County), N.Y.

The agency issues its review of performance for each of the 104 operating power reactors in the United States twice a year – at the middle and end of the year. Inspection findings and performance indicators are also updated on the NRC's website, www.nrc.gov, each quarter. Following the release of the end-of-year performance reviews every March, the public is provided with an opportunity to discuss the results with NRC staff. Meetings are held in the vicinity of the plant, keeping with the NRC's commitment to transparency and openness with regard to its activities.

“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 Indian Point Unit 2 and 3 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" (which would require additional NRC oversight) or any performance indicators that were other than "Green" (which would also result in additional NRC oversight) for the units. Therefore, for the remainder of 2011, Indian Point will continue to receive the 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 of the Indian Point units and by inspection specialists from the agency's Region I Office in King of Prussia, Pa. In 2010, the NRC devoted about 11,400 hours to inspection of Indian Point, including six major team inspections. Among the areas at Indian Point being inspected this year are the plant's problem identification and resolution program, permanent plant modifications and fire protection.

The annual assessment letter for Indian Point Units 2 and 3 is available on the NRC website at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/inp3_2010q4.pdf. The notice for the public meeting is available in the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) under accession number ML111220200. 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 Indian Point Unit 2 is available on the NRC website at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/IP2/ip2_chart.html. Current performance information for Indian Point Unit 3 is available on the NRC website at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/IP3/ip3_chart.html.

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