



NRC NEWS

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NRC STAFF TO HOLD THREE MEETINGS APRIL 15 ON DAVIS-BESSE

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold two meetings on Tuesday, April 15, to review the status and adequacy of recent activities at the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station resulting from the corrosion damage to the reactor vessel head. A third meeting that day will present preliminary NRC inspection findings on the plant's radiation protection program.

The plant, operated by FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company near Oak Harbor, Ohio, has been shut down since February 16 of last year.

The meeting covering the preliminary radiation protection findings will be at 9 a.m. (EDT) in the Davis-Besse Administration Building, 5501 North State Route 2, near Oak Harbor. NRC inspectors will present the results of their review of the company's response to earlier NRC findings associated with elevated worker radiation exposures during steam generator work in February of last year. The inspection team also evaluated the company's radiation protection program as one of the topics to be considered before a decision on possible restart of the plant.

The public is invited to observe the business portion of the meeting between the NRC staff and utility officials and will have an opportunity to make comments and ask questions of the NRC staff before the meeting is adjourned. The report of the inspection will be issued in about 30 days. It will be available on the NRC web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov>. Select "Davis-Besse" from the Key Topics menu.

The other two meetings will be at the Camp Perry Clubhouse, 1000 Lawrence Road, Bldg. 600, on Highway 2 west of Port Clinton. A picture identification is required to enter Camp Perry; the guards will provide visitors with directions to the meeting site.

The first meeting will begin at 2 p.m. (EDT), when the NRC oversight panel, set up to coordinate the agency's activities associated with the corrosion damage to the reactor vessel head, will meet with utility officials. The meeting will focus on the status of repairs at the plant, results of recent NRC inspections and upcoming activities. The public is invited to observe the business portion of the meeting and will have an opportunity to make comments and ask questions of the NRC staff before the meeting is adjourned.

The second meeting will begin at 7 p.m. (EDT) for the oversight panel to update the public on NRC's activities related to the reactor vessel head degradation and will provide a summary of the earlier meeting. The public will be invited to ask questions and make comments.

Transcripts of both oversight panel meetings will be posted in several weeks on the NRC's web site.

The NRC oversight panel includes NRC management and staff from its Region III office in Lisle, Illinois; the NRC Headquarters office in Rockville, Maryland; and the NRC Resident Inspector Office at the Davis-Besse site.

Documents on the Davis-Besse corrosion issue, including further details on NRC's oversight panel activities, are posted on the NRC's web site.

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