



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC ISSUES MID-CYCLE LETTERS FOR NATION'S NUCLEAR PLANTS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued mid-cycle assessment letters to the nation's 104 operating commercial nuclear power plants. The agency's most recent assessments show all the plants continue to operate safely.

"We ensure nuclear power plants are safe, inspecting them and rating their performance regularly, as part of our mission to protect people and the environment," said Stuart Richards, Deputy Director of the Division of Inspection and Regional Support in the NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. "The latest round of assessments shows that about 70 percent of the nation's commercial reactors require only the agency's basic level of attention."

If a nuclear power plant's performance declines, the NRC assigns additional resources to ensure the plant operator is taking the steps necessary to correct the situation. Only one plant, Palo Verde in Arizona, requires the NRC's highest level of attention, which will include additional inspectors this fall to confirm the plant's performance issues are being addressed. Ten plants require significant NRC attention, and another 19 plants get some additional attention. These numbers are generally comparable to last year's mid-cycle assessments. A list of each plant's current performance rating is available on the NRC Web site at:

http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/actionmatrix_summary.html .

Updated information on plant performance is posted to the NRC Web site every quarter. The plants also receive annual assessment letters, with the next ones to be issued in March 2008. The assessment letters sent to each licensee are available on the NRC Web site at:

<http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/index.html> .

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