



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC TO DISCUSS 2008 PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FOR DAVIS-BESSE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT JULY 15

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with representatives of FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company on Wednesday, July 15, to discuss the agency's assessment of safety performance last year at the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station. The plant is located in Oak Harbor, Ohio, roughly 40 miles southeast of Toledo.

The meeting, which will be open to the public, is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. EDT at the Davis-Besse Energy Education Center, 5501 North State Route 2, in Oak Harbor. The NRC staff will present the results of the assessment, talk about the NRC and its range of activities, and be available to respond to questions or comments from the public before the close of the meeting.

"The NRC continually reviews the performance of the Davis-Besse plant and the nation's other commercial nuclear power facilities," NRC Region III Administrator Mark Satorius said. "This meeting allows us to discuss our annual assessment of safety performance with the company and area residents. One of the NRC's main goals is to explain to people in the community how the agency regulates nuclear power plants."

A letter sent from the NRC Region III Office to plant officials addresses the performance of the plant during the period and will serve as the basis for the meeting discussion. It is available on the NRC Web site at:

http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/davi_2008q4.pdf

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

The NRC's assessment concluded that Davis-Besse operated safely in 2008. All of the inspection findings and performance indicators for Davis-Besse during 2008 were determined to be "green."

FirstEnergy has been conducting annual independent assessments of Engineering, Corrective Actions, Operations and Safety Culture at the plant since 2004 under the terms of an NRC Confirmatory Order. The NRC has been conducting inspection activities to review these assessments, in addition to the baseline inspection program. In May 2009 the NRC received a letter from FirstEnergy concluding that they have fulfilled the conditions of the Confirmatory Order. The NRC is reviewing the utility's assessment.

The NRC will continue to conduct the very detailed routine inspections for plants that are performing well. Inspections are performed by two NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant, and inspection specialists from the Region III Office in Lisle, Ill. Among the areas of plant operations to be inspected this year by NRC specialists are initial operator license examinations and emergency response preparedness.

Current performance information for Davis-Besse is available on the NRC's Web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/DAVI/davi_chart.html.

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