



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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No. I-12-018

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April 16, 2012

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NRC TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE ON APRIL 25 IN DELTA, PA., TO DISCUSS PEACH BOTTOM NUCLEAR PLANT ANNUAL ASSESSMENT

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will conduct an open house on Wednesday, April 25, regarding the agency's annual assessment of safety performance for the Peach Bottom nuclear power plant.

The open house will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Peach Bottom Inn, at 6085 Delta Road in Delta, Pa. Members of the public will have an opportunity to learn first-hand from NRC staff members about the plant's safety performance during 2011 and the NRC's oversight of the facility. The meeting format will allow citizens to discuss plant-related topics on a one-on-one basis with NRC inspectors assigned to the plant and their NRC Region I supervisor.

Peach Bottom, which is the site of two boiling-water reactors, is located in Delta (York County), Pa., and is owned and operated by Exelon Generation Co., LLC.

Overall, Peach Bottom operated safely during 2011. At the conclusion of last year, as assessed by the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process, there were no performance indicators for the plant that were other than "Green" (very low risk) and no inspection findings that were "Greater than Green" (all findings were of very low safety significance). Therefore, for the rest of 2012, Peach Bottom will receive the very detailed inspection regime used by the NRC for plants that are operating well. In 2011, the NRC devoted approximately 6,540 hours of inspection to the Peach Bottom facility.

"Throughout 2011, our inspectors kept close watch on a daily basis to ensure there were no safety issues of significance. The Peach Bottom plant was among those to meet our clearly defined performance criteria last year," NRC Region I Administrator Bill Dean said. "In addition, our inspectors spent time in 2011 checking on whether there were any immediate safety concerns at U.S. nuclear power plants following the March events at the Fukushima Daiichi facility in Japan. Those reviews indicated the plants remained safe for continued operation."

The NRC utilizes a combination of color-coded inspection findings and performance indicators to measure plant performance. The colors start with “Green” and then increase to “White,” “Yellow” or “Red,” commensurate with the safety significance of the issues involved. The agency issues reports on performance at specific plants twice a year: during the mid-cycle, or mid-point, of the year, and at the conclusion of the year. Inspection findings and performance indicators are also updated on the NRC’s web site, www.nrc.gov, each quarter. Following the release of the annual reports every March, the NRC meets with the public in the vicinity of each plant to discuss the results. The meetings are in keeping with the agency’s commitment to transparency with regard to its activities.

The annual assessment for the Peach Bottom plant is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/pb_2011q4.pdf. The notice for the open house is available in the NRC’s Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) under accession number ML12080A033. ADAMS is available at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.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.Resource@NRC.GOV.

Routine inspections are carried out by the two NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant and by inspection specialists from the agency’s Region I Office in King of Prussia, Pa. Among the areas of performance at Peach Bottom to be inspected this year by NRC specialists are activities associated with emergency preparedness, fire protection, the dry cask storage of spent nuclear fuel, adherence to license renewal commitments and the facility’s implementation of a voluntary industry initiative to address potential degradation of underground piping.

Current performance information for Peach Bottom Unit 2 is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/PB2/pb2_chart.html. Current performance information for Peach Bottom Unit 3 is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/PB3/pb3_chart.html.

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