

NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC SCHEDULES PUBLIC MEETING FOR DECEMBER 11 TO DISCUSS PALISADES CORRECTIVE ACTIONS AND NRC OVERSIGHT

Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials have scheduled a public meeting for Tuesday, December 11, to discuss with local residents Entergy's actions to ensure improvements in the Palisades nuclear plant's performance are sustained and the NRC's independent oversight of these actions.

The plant is located in Covert, Mich., approximately 50 miles west of Kalamazoo.

The meeting will be held 6 to 8:30 p.m. and consist of a formal exchange between the NRC and Entergy representatives followed by the opportunity for members of the public to ask questions and make comments to the NRC staff. The meeting will be held at the Beach Haven Event Center, 10420 M-140, in South Haven.

On Nov. 9, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission concluded that the Palisades nuclear plant has adequately addressed last year's safety problems. As a result, the plant has moved to the performance column which would no longer require increased oversight by the agency.

However, the NRC has also concluded that the plant still needs additional oversight. As a result, the agency will deviate from its normal process by conducting over 1,000 additional hours of inspections at the plant in 2013 to:

- verify that the plant's actions to maintain the safety improvements are properly implemented and can be sustained; and
- ensure that the licensee takes actions for the leaks that occurred in 2012, so they do not lead to more significant safety concerns.

"We will discuss with the public how the NRC will oversee Entergy on their actions to sustain progress on safety performance at Palisades," said Region III Administrator Charles Casto. "This meeting will also provide a forum for the public to have a dialogue with the NRC

staff on our conclusions regarding maintenance of plant safety as we continue our relentless oversight of Palisades."

NRC's inspection reports and other documents are available through the NRC's <u>Agencywide Documents Access and Management System</u> (ADAMS) at the NRC website or by contacting the NRC's Region III Public Affairs Office.

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