



NRC NEWS

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NRC TO DISCUSS 2004 PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FOR MILLSTONE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with representatives of Dominion Resources on Tuesday, March 29, to discuss the agency's annual assessment of safety performance at the Millstone nuclear power plant. The period of performance to be discussed is Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2004.

Dominion operates the Unit 2 and 3 reactors at the Waterford, Conn., site.

The meeting, which will be open to the public for observation, is scheduled to begin at 3 p.m. at the Leland F. Sillin Jr. Nuclear Training Center, located at the plant on Rope Ferry Road.

NRC staff will also hold a joint meeting at 6 p.m. the same day with Connecticut's Nuclear Energy Advisory Council (NEAC) to discuss the annual assessment. That session will take place at Waterford Town Hall, 15 Rope Ferry Road in Waterford.

Before the meetings are adjourned, NRC staff will be available to answer questions from the public on the safety performance of the Millstone plant, as well as the role of the NRC in ensuring safe plant operation.

"The NRC continually reviews the performance of the Millstone plant and the nation's other commercial nuclear power facilities," NRC Region I Administrator Samuel J. Collins said. "This meeting will provide an opportunity for a discussion of our annual assessment of safety performance with the company and with local officials and residents who live near the plant. Our goal is to explain the NRC oversight process and make as much information as possible available to the public regarding our regulation of these facilities."

A letter sent from the NRC Region I 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/mill_2004q4.pdf. Notices for the meetings, with agendas attached, and slides for the annual assessment meeting are available in the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) under accession number

ML050730393. ADAMS is accessible via the agency's web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> . Help in using ADAMS is available by contacting the NRC's Public Document Room at 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737 or by e-mail at PDR@nrc.gov .

Overall, the Millstone plant operated safely during the period. The NRC uses color-coded inspection findings and performance indicators to assess nuclear plant performance. The colors start with "green" and then increase to "white," "yellow" or "red," commensurate with the safety significance of the issues involved. Because all of the inspection findings and performance indicators for Millstone during 2004 were determined to be "green," the plant will receive a baseline level of inspections during the upcoming assessment period.

Millstone Unit 2 had a "white" performance indicator during the second and third quarters of the 2004 assessment period, for exceeding the number of unplanned scrams, or shutdowns, per 7,000 critical hours of operation. The NRC staff performed a supplemental inspection to assess the company's response to the events and, after finding satisfactory corrective actions, determined the indicator could be returned to "green."

Routine inspections are performed by three NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant and by inspection specialists from the Region I Office in King of Prussia, Pa., and the agency's headquarters in Rockville, Md. Among the areas of plant operations to be inspected this year by NRC specialists are reactor vessel head replacement, fire protection and radiological safety.

Current performance information for Millstone Unit 2 is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/MILL2/mill2_chart.html .

Current performance information for Millstone Unit 3 is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/MILL3/mill3_chart.html .

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