



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE ON MARCH 22 IN SCRIBA, N.Y., TO DISCUSS ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF NINE MILE POINT, FITZPATRICK NUCLEAR PLANTS

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold an open house on Thursday, March 22, regarding the agency's annual assessment of safety performance for the Nine Mile Point and James A. FitzPatrick nuclear power plants.

The open house will take place from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Scriba Town Hall, 42 Creamery Road in Oswego, N.Y. Members of the public will have an opportunity to learn first-hand from NRC staff members about the safety performance of the plants 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 plants and their NRC Region I supervisors.

Nine Mile Point, which is the site of two boiling-water reactors, and FitzPatrick, which is the site of a single boiling-water reactor, are located adjacent to one another in Scriba (Oswego County), N.Y. Constellation Energy Nuclear Group, LLC, owns and operates Nine Mile Point while Entergy Nuclear Northeast owns and operates FitzPatrick.

Overall, Nine Mile Point 1 and 2 and FitzPatrick operated safely during 2011. At the conclusion of last year, as assessed through the NRC Reactor Oversight Process, there were no performance indicators for the Nine Mile Point units or FitzPatrick that were other than "Green" and no inspection findings that were "Greater than Green." Therefore, for the rest of 2012, Nine Mile Point 1 and 2 and FitzPatrick will receive the normal, very detailed inspection regime used by the NRC for plants that are operating well. In 2011, the NRC devoted approximately 6,940 hours of inspection to the Nine Mile Point facility and about 5,180 hours of inspection to the FitzPatrick facility.

“Throughout 2011, our inspectors kept close watch on a daily basis to ensure there were no safety issues of significance. The Nine Mile Point and FitzPatrick plants were 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 [website](#) 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 letters for [FitzPatrick](#) and [Nine Mile Point](#) are available on the NRC web site. The notice for the open house is available in the NRC’s [Agencywide Documents Access and Management System \(ADAMS\)](#) under accession number ML12066A142. 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 each site and by inspection specialists from the agency’s Region I Office in King of Prussia, Pa. Among the areas of performance at FitzPatrick to be inspected this year by NRC specialists are activities associated with radiological safety and controls, dry cask storage of spent nuclear fuel, emergency preparedness and the plant’s implementation of a voluntary industry initiative to address potential degradation of underground piping. Among the areas of performance at Nine Mile Point to be inspected this year by NRC specialists are activities associated with fire protection, a power uprate at Nine Mile Point 2, radiological effluent monitoring and the plant’s implementation of a voluntary industry initiative to address potential degradation of underground piping.

Current performance information for [FitzPatrick](#), [Nine Mile Point 1](#) and [Nine Mile Point 2](#) is available on the NRC website.

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NOTE: Anyone wishing to take photos or use a camera to record any portion of a NRC meeting should contact the Office of Public Affairs beforehand.

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