

NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs, Region I 475 Allendale Road, King of Prussia, Pa. Web Site: http://www.nrc.gov/OPA

No. I-05-001 January 3, 2005 Contact: Diane Screnci, 610/337-5330 E-mail: opa1@nrc.gov

Neil Sheehan, 610/337-5331

NRC RESCHEDULES MEETING ON HOPE CREEK NUCLEAR PLANT TO JAN. 12

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has rescheduled a public meeting at which key issues involving the Hope Creek nuclear power plant are to be discussed. The reason for the postponement is to allow adequate time for the NRC staff to complete its review of issues associated with one of the reactor recirculation pumps at the Hancocks Bridge (Salem County), N.J., facility.

Previously scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 5, the meeting between NRC staff and representatives of Public Service Electric and Gas (PSEG), the operator of the plant, will now take place on Wednesday, Jan. 12. The location will remain unchanged: The Holiday Inn Select Bridgeport, located off Exit 10 of Interstate 295 in Swedesboro, N.J. Before the session is adjourned, NRC staff will accept questions and comments from the public.

Another topic of discussion at the meeting will be the results of an NRC special inspection conducted at the plant in response to a steam line failure and shutdown with complications that occurred there on Oct. 10. In addition, issues involving the exhaust piping for the high-pressure coolant injection pump will be discussed.

Prior to the meeting, the NRC staff expects to release the results of its analysis of the issues involving the "B" recirculation pump as well as the preliminary results of the special inspection.

The meeting will take place prior to the plant's return to service from its current refueling and maintenance outage.

Background information regarding the Hope Creek plant can be found on a portion of the NRC's web site devoted to that plant and the adjacent Salem reactors. The web address is: www.nrc.gov/reactors/plant-specific-items/hope-creek-salem-issues.html. Specific information on the technical issues involving the Hope Creek "B" recirculation pump can be found in the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System, or ADAMS, under Accession Numbers ML043480164 and ML043510279. ADAMS can be accessed at www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html. Help in using ADAMS is available from the NRC Public Document Room at 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737.