



NRC NEWS

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC TO DISCUSS PERFORMANCE FOR DIABLO CANYON NUCLEAR PLANT

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with representatives of Pacific Gas & Electric Co. on June 7 to discuss the results of the agency's assessment of safety performance at the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant. The facility is located in San Luis Obispo, Calif.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 333 Madonna Road, San Luis Obispo. Before the session is adjourned, NRC staff will be available to answer questions from the public on the plant's safety performance, as well as the agency's role in ensuring safe operation of the facility.

"This meeting gives us a chance to discuss our annual safety assessment with the company, local officials and residents who live near Diablo Canyon," said Region IV Administrator Bruce S. Mallett. "We know community interest in Diablo Canyon is strong, and we encourage members of the community to attend our meeting. The NRC staff will address any questions the public may have and make available the latest information about the plant."

Overall, Diablo Canyon operated safely during 2004. The NRC uses color-coded inspection findings and performance indicators to assess nuclear plant performance. The colors start with "green" and increase to "white," "yellow," and "red," according to the safety significance of the issues involved.

All of the plant's inspection findings and performance indicators were rated "green" during 2004. However, there were multiple findings of very low safety significance indicating some issues remain with the site's problem identification and resolution and corrective action programs. The NRC will focus attention on these areas through its baseline inspection program during 2005. Baseline inspections are performed by the NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant and by inspection specialists from the Region IV office and the agency's headquarters in Rockville, Md.

A letter sent from the NRC Region IV Office in Arlington, Texas, to plant officials will serve as the basis for the meeting. It is available on the NRC web site at:

http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/diab_2004q4.pdf .

Current information for Diablo Canyon Unit 1 is available on the NRC web site at:

http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/DIAB1/diab1_chart.html .

Information for Unit 2 is available at:

http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/DIAB2/diab2_chart.html .

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