



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC TO DISCUSS 2008 PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FOR PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet in Tonopah, Ariz., on March 24, with representatives of Arizona Public Service Co., to discuss the agency's assessment of safety performance during 2008 at the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station. The plant, operated by APS, is located 50 miles west of Phoenix.

The meeting, which will be open to the public, is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m at the auditorium of the Tonopah Valley High School, 38201 W. Indian School Road, Tonopah.

In addition to the performance assessment, the NRC staff will be available to answer questions from the public on the safety performance of Palo Verde and the NRC's role in ensuring safe plant operation. The status of a Confirmatory Action Letter that identified areas for improvement will also be discussed as well as the agency's plans for oversight of Palo Verde during 2009.

"We have seen notable improvements in the performance of Palo Verde during 2008," NRC Region IV Administrator Elmo E. Collins said of the triple-reactor plant which has received additional NRC oversight since the fall of 2004. "The 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."

A letter sent from the NRC Region IV office to plant officials addresses the performance of the plant during 2008 and will serve as the basis for the meeting discussion. The letter states that Palo Verde met all NRC safety objectives. It is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/palo_2008q4.pdf.

Current performance information for Palo Verde Unit 1 is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/PALO1/palo1_chart.html. Current performance

information for Unit 2 is available at:

http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/PALO2/palo2_chart.html. Current performance

information for Unit 3 is available at:

http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/PALO3/palo3_chart.html.

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