



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs, Region I
475 Allendale Road, King of Prussia, Pa. 19406

E-mail: opal@nrc.gov

Site: www.nrc.gov

Blog: <http://public-blog.nrc-gateway.gov>

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Contact: Diane Screnci, 610/337-5330
Neil Sheehan, 610/337-5331

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E-mail: opal@nrc.gov

NRC TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING ON APRIL 13 IN DELTA, PA., TO DISCUSS ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF PEACH BOTTOM NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, April 13, regarding the agency's annual assessment of safety performance for the Peach Bottom nuclear power plant during 2010.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. at the Peach Bottom Inn, at 6805 Delta Road in Delta (York County), Pa. Prior to the session's conclusion, there will be an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions of the NRC staff regarding the plant's performance, as well as the NRC's oversight of the facility.

Peach Bottom, which is the site of two operating boiling-water reactors, is located in Delta. It is owned and operated by Exelon Nuclear.

"Our Annual Assessment reviews allow us to step back and gauge whether the nuclear power plants we regulate are on the right track in terms of performance and adhering to the highest levels of safety," NRC Region I Administrator Bill Dean said. "Once we've completed these evaluations, we reach out to the public to share that information and to receive their feedback at a location near each plant. We welcome and value these exchanges."

The NRC utilizes a combination of color-coded inspection findings and performance indicators to measure plant performance. The colors start with "green", representing very low safety significance, and increase to "white", "yellow" or "red", commensurate with the significance of the issues involved.

Overall, Peach Bottom operated safely during 2010. At the conclusion of last year, as assessed by the NRC Reactor Oversight Process, there were no performance indicators for the plant that were other than "Green" and no inspection findings that were "Greater than Green." Therefore, for the remainder of 2011, Peach Bottom will continue to receive the very detailed inspection regime used by the NRC for plants that are operating well.

Routine inspections are carried out by two NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant and by inspection specialists from the agency's Region I Office in King of Prussia, Pa. In 2010, the NRC devoted 5,500 hours to inspection of the facility, including two major team inspections.

Among the areas at Peach Bottom being inspected this year are emergency preparedness; radioactive material handling, storage and transportation; the dry cask storage of spent nuclear fuel; and the plant's problem identification and resolution program.

The agency issues its review of performance at specific plants twice a year. Inspection findings and performance indicators are also updated on the NRC's web site, www.nrc.gov, each quarter. Following the release of the annual performance reviews every March, the public is provided with an opportunity to discuss the results. The meetings, which are held in the vicinity of the plant, are in keeping with the NRC's commitment to transparency and openness with regard to its activities.

The annual assessment letter for Peach Bottom is available on the NRC web site at http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/pb_2010q4.pdf. The notice for the public meeting is available in the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) under accession number ML110910108. ADAMS is available at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. 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.Resources@NRC.GOV.

Current performance information for Peach Bottom Unit 2 is available on the NRC web site at http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/PB2/pb2_chart.html. Current performance information for Peach Bottom Unit 3 is available on the NRC web site at http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/PB3/pb3_chart.html.

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