



NRC NEWS

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NRC SCHEDULES OPEN HOUSE TO DISCUSS NUCLEAR ISSUES AND 2009 PERFORMANCE OF D.C. COOK NUCLEAR PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled an open house for Tuesday, May 25, to discuss with local residents NRC activities and nuclear power issues and answer questions about the agency's assessment of safety performance for last year at the D.C. Cook nuclear power plant. The two-unit plant operated by Indiana Michigan Power Co. is in Stevensville, Mich., roughly 60 miles southwest of Kalamazoo.

The open house is informal and will begin at 6 p.m. EDT at the Maud Preston Palenske Memorial Library, 500 Market Street, in St. Joseph. NRC staff will be available to answer questions on the safety performance of the D.C. Cook plant as well as areas of safety and security not specifically associated with the plant.

"The NRC continually reviews the performance of the D.C. Cook plant and the nation's other commercial nuclear power facilities," said NRC Region III Administrator Mark Satorius. "This meeting allows us to discuss our annual assessment of safety performance with members of the local community. The goal of this meeting is to explain how the NRC works and answer questions from residents about nuclear regulation."

A letter sent from the NRC Region III office to plant officials addressed the performance of the plant during 2009 and will serve as the basis for the discussion. It is available on the NRC Web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/cook_2009q4.pdf.

The NRC found that the D.C. Cook nuclear plant met all NRC safety objectives during 2009, and performance was at a level that resulted in no additional NRC oversight. The NRC uses color-coded inspection findings and performance indicators to assess nuclear plant performance. The colors start with "green" and then increase to "white," "yellow" or "red," commensurate with the safety significance of the issues involved.

All performance indicators and inspection findings for D.C. Cook during 2009 were determined to be “green.” Performance indicators are a statistical measurement of plant and equipment performance.

D.C. Cook will continue to receive the detailed inspection regime used by the NRC for plants that require no additional oversight. Routine inspections are performed by two NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant and by inspection specialists from the Region III Office in Lisle, Ill., and the agency’s headquarters in Rockville, Md. Among the areas of plant operations to be inspected during the ensuing year by NRC specialists are equipment design, radiation protection, and the independent spent fuel storage installation.

Current performance information for D.C. Cook is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/COOK1/cook1_chart.html (Unit 1) and http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/COOK2/cook2_chart.html (Unit 2).

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