



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs, Region I
475 Allendale Road, King of Prussia, Pa. 19406
E-mail: opa1@nrc.gov
Site: www.nrc.gov
Blog: <http://public-blog.nrc-gateway.gov>

No. I-12-023

May 4, 2012

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

Email: opa1.resource@nrc.gov

NRC TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING, OPEN HOUSE ON MAY 15 IN SALEM, N.J., TO DISCUSS SALEM, HOPE CREEK NUCLEAR PLANT ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will conduct a public meeting and open house on Tuesday, May 15, regarding the agency's annual assessment of safety performance for the Salem and Hope Creek nuclear power plants.

The open house will take place from 6 to 7 p.m. at the PSEG Energy & Environmental Resource Center, at 244 Chestnut St. in Salem, N.J. Members of the public will have an opportunity to learn first-hand from NRC staff members about the plant's safety performance during 2011 and the NRC's oversight of the facility. The meeting format will allow citizens to discuss plant-related topics on a one-on-one basis with NRC inspectors assigned to the plant and their supervisor. Starting at 7 p.m., at the same location, the NRC will conduct a meeting with the public at which NRC staff members will present information on the plants' performance and take questions from audience members.

Salem is the site of two pressurized-water reactors while Hope Creek is the site of a single boiling-water reactor. The plants are located adjacent to each other in Hancocks Bridge (Salem County), N.J., and are owned and operated by PSEG Nuclear, LLC.

Overall, the Hope Creek and Salem Units 1 and 2 operated safely during 2011. At the conclusion of last year, as assessed by the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process, there were no performance indicators for the plants that were other than "Green" (very low risk) and no inspection findings that were "Greater than Green" (all findings were of very low safety significance). Therefore, for the rest of 2012, the Hope Creek and Salem plants will receive the very detailed inspection regime used by the NRC for plants that are operating well. In 2011, the NRC devoted approximately 4,800 hours of inspection to the Hope Creek facility and approximately 6,600 hours to the Salem units.

"Throughout 2011, our inspectors kept close watch on a daily basis to ensure there were no safety issues of significance. The Salem and Hope Creek plants were among those to meet our clearly defined performance criteria last year," NRC Region I Administrator Bill Dean said. "In

addition, our inspectors spent time in 2011 checking on whether there were any immediate safety concerns at U.S. nuclear power plants following the March events at the Fukushima Daiichi facility in Japan. Those reviews indicated the plants remained safe for continued operation.”

The NRC utilizes a combination of color-coded inspection findings and performance indicators to measure plant performance. The colors start with “Green” and then increase to “White,” “Yellow” or “Red,” commensurate with the safety significance of the issues involved. The agency issues reports on performance at specific plants twice a year: during the mid-cycle, or mid-point, of the year, and at the conclusion of the 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 reports every March, the NRC meets with the public in the vicinity of each plant to discuss the results. The meetings are in keeping with the agency’s commitment to transparency with regard to its activities.

The annual assessment for the Salem units is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/salm_2011q4.pdf. The annual assessment for Hope Creek is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/hope_2011q4.pdf. The notice for the open house is available in the NRC’s Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) under accession number ML12103A038. ADAMS is available at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.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.Resource@NRC.GOV.

Routine inspections are carried out by the two NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to each plant and by inspection specialists from the agency’s Region I Office in King of Prussia, Pa. Among the areas of performance at Salem to be inspected this year by NRC specialists are activities associated with emergency preparedness, radiological safety and fire protection. At Hope Creek, NRC specialists will evaluate activities associated with license renewal commitments, control room operator licensing, and refueling and maintenance outage inspections. In addition, the NRC will review both facilities’ implementation of a voluntary industry initiative to address potential degradation of underground piping.

Current performance information for Hope Creek is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/HOPE/hope_chart.html. Current performance information for Salem Unit 1 is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/SALM1/salm1_chart.html. Current performance information for Salem Unit 2 is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/SALM2/salm2_chart.html.

###

News releases are available through a free [listserv subscription](#) or by clicking on the [EMAIL UPDATES](#) link on the NRC homepage (www.nrc.gov). E-mail notifications are sent to subscribers when news releases are posted to NRC’s website. For the latest news, follow the NRC on www.twitter.com/NRCgov.