



NRC NEWS

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NRC TO DISCUSS 2006 ASSESSMENT FOR LIMERICK NUCLEAR PLANT AT PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 18

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's annual assessment of safety performance at the Limerick nuclear power plant, in Limerick (Montgomery County), Pa., will be the subject of a public meeting on Wednesday, April 18.

NRC staff will meet with representatives of plant owner Exelon Generating Co., LLC, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the assessment, which covers the period from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2006, and was documented in a March 2nd letter to the company. The session will take place at the Limerick Energy Information Center, at 298 Longview Road in Royersford, Pa.

Before the meeting is adjourned, NRC staff will be available to answer questions from the public on the performance of the twin-reactor Limerick plant, as well as the role of the NRC in providing oversight of plant safety.

"Each year we take a step back to size up plant performance during the previous calendar year, with the overarching goal of ensuring that facilities are achieving the levels of safety that are essential to protecting the public and the environment," said NRC Region I Administrator Samuel J. Collins, who noted the agency also conducts mid-year assessments of performance. "At the meeting on April 18th, members of the public will receive information about how we go about that review process for Limerick and other nuclear power plants across the nation. The NRC staff will also be prepared to answer questions from attendees."

The annual assessment letter for Limerick is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/lim_2006q4.pdf. The notice for the meeting, with agenda attached, is available in the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) under accession number ML070880459. ADAMS is accessible at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. Help in using ADAMS is available via the NRC's Public Document Room at 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail at PDR@NRC.GOV.

Overall, the Limerick plant operated safely during 2006. The NRC utilizes color-coded inspection findings and performance indicators to assess nuclear power plant performance. The colors

start with “green” and then increase to “white,” “yellow” or “red,” commensurate with the safety significance of the issues involved. Because all of the performance indicators for the Limerick plant were determined to be “green” and there were no inspection findings greater than “green” at the end of 2006, the plant will receive the baseline, or routine, level of inspections in 2007.

Routine inspections are performed by two NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant and by inspection specialists from the Region I Office in King of Prussia, Pa. Among the areas of plant performance to be inspected this year by NRC specialists are activities associated with the construction of a dry cask storage facility for spent nuclear fuel at the site, fire protection, component design bases and emergency preparedness.

Current performance information for Limerick Unit 1 is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LIM1/lim1_chart.html .

Current performance information for Limerick Unit 2 is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LIM2/lim2_chart.html .

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