NRC NEWS

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NRC TO DISCUSS PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES AT PERRY NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with representatives of FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company in Painesville, Ohio, on Wednesday, Oct. 12, to discuss the status and plans for implementing performance improvements at the Perry Nuclear Power Plant. The plant is located at Perry, Ohio.

The meeting, which will be open to the public for observation, will begin at 3 p.m. in the Barberry Room at the Renaissance Quail Hollow Resort, 11080 Concord-Hambden Road, Painesville. Before the meeting is adjourned, NRC staff will be available to answer questions from the public.

The plant has been under heightened NRC oversight since August of last year because of past problems with safety system equipment between October 2002 and May 2004.

An in-depth inspection earlier this year found that performance problems were continuing at Perry, particularly in the areas of human performance and corrective action.

To address these issues, FirstEnergy last month submitted its revised performance improvement program to the NRC. The agency documented the company's commitments in a Confirmatory Action Letter issued on Sept. 28.

"The Perry plant continues to operate safely," said James Caldwell, NRC Regional Administrator. "However, the NRC has increased its oversight of the Perry plant because of previous equipment problems. FirstEnergy presented us with a plan to improve these problem areas. We are monitoring these plans and the utility's actions to improve performance closely."

The Confirmatory Action Letter is available in the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System, or ADAMS, at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html. Use Accession Number ML052710221 to locate the letter. Help in using ADAMS is available from the NRC Public Document Room at 1-800-397-4209.

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