



NRC NEWS

**U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, REGION III**

801 Warrenville Road

Lisle IL 60532

Web Site: <http://www.nrc.gov/OPA>

No. III-00-38

July 10, 2000

CONTACT: Jan Strasma (630)829-9663/e-mail: rjs2@nrc.gov
Pam Alloway-Mueller (630)829-9662/e-mail: pla@nrc.gov

NRC ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING TEAM, MOBILE LABORATORY TO VISIT BIG ROCK POINT NUCLEAR PLANT SITE IN MID-JULY

**** Open for Public Visits on the Afternoons of July 18 - 20 ****

A Nuclear Regulatory Commission environmental monitoring team and its mobile laboratory will be at the Big Rock Point Nuclear Power Plant site near Charlevoix, Michigan, during the week of July 17 to collect and analyze environmental samples at the facility which is being decommissioned.

The plant, owned by Consumers Energy Co., was shut down in 1997.

The NRC team will be checking, on a preliminary basis, portions of the plant site which are believed to be free of any radioactivity resulting from plant operations. Further surveys will be performed later as part of a more thorough review by the NRC before the site is released for unrestricted uses.

The team will also perform radiological surveys of the area where a concrete pad will be constructed for the placement of storage casks for the plant's spent reactor fuel. The surveys will determine the radiological conditions of the storage area before any construction and use of the site begins. The fuel assemblies are currently in a spent fuel storage pool at the plant, but will be transferred into storage casks which will be placed on the concrete pad.

The mobile laboratory will be open to visitors from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. on July 18-20, and the team members will be available to answer questions on the NRC's inspection program for decommissioning activities at the Big Rock Point site. At 5 p.m. on July 20, the team will meet with the Big Rock Point Citizen's Advisory Board as part of the board's regulatory scheduled meeting.

The mobile laboratory will be parked in the East Parking lot, which is located on the North side of the plant access road. The Big Rock Point plant site is on Highway 31 east of Charlevoix.

###