



NRC NEWS

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NRC TO DISCUSS 2005 PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FOR SEABROOK NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with representatives of FPL Energy Seabrook, LLC, on Thursday, March 30, to discuss the agency's annual assessment of safety performance at the Seabrook nuclear power plant. The period of performance to be discussed is Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2005.

FPL Energy operates the plant, which is located in Seabrook, N.H..

The meeting, which will be open to the public for observation, is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Inn of Hampton, 815 Lafayette Road (U.S. Route 1) in Hampton, N.H. (Directions are available on the inn's web site at: <http://www.theinnofhampton.com/>.) Before the session is adjourned, NRC staff will be available to answer questions from the public on the plant's safety performance, as well as the agency's role in ensuring safe operation of the facility.

"As we do every year, we have carefully reviewed the safety performance of the Seabrook nuclear power plant during the previous calendar year," NRC Region I Administrator Samuel J. Collins said. "The meeting on March 30th will afford the public a chance to learn more about the results of our assessment and to pose any questions they might have regarding plant performance or our oversight activities."

A letter sent from the NRC Region I Office to plant officials addresses the performance of the plant during the period and will serve as the basis for the meeting discussion. It is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/seab_2005q4.pdf. The meeting notice, with the meeting agenda attached, is available in the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) under accession number ML060660573. The NRC slides will be available in ADAMS at least three days before the meeting; they will be provided in a revision to the meeting notice. ADAMS is accessible via the agency's web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. Help in using ADAMS is available by contacting 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 Seabrook plant operated safely during the period. The NRC uses 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 inspection findings and performance indicators for the plant during 2005 were determined to be “green,” Seabrook will receive a baseline (or routine) level of inspections during the upcoming assessment period.

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., and the agency’s headquarters in Rockville, Md. Among the areas of plant operations to be inspected during the next year by NRC specialists are radiological safety and problem identification and resolution.

Current performance information for Seabrook is available on the NRC web site at:
http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/SEAB1/seab1_chart.html .

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