



NRC NEWS

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC TO HOLD TWO PUBLIC MEETINGS ABOUT THE DIABLO CANYON NUCLEAR PLANT ON JULY 25

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will hold two public meetings on July 25 to discuss issues regarding the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant, located near San Luis Obispo, Calif.

The NRC staff will meet with Pacific Gas & Electric Co. officials at 2:30 p.m. to discuss the NRC's annual assessment of safety performance at the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant during 2005, then hold a "Town Hall" style meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. Both meetings will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 333 Madonna Road, in San Luis Obispo.

Both meetings are open to the public but have different purposes. The public is invited to observe the afternoon meeting and will have one or more opportunities to communicate with the NRC after the business portion, but before the meeting is adjourned. The "Town Hall" meeting is specifically tailored to maximize public participation. NRC staff from Region IV as well as specialists from NRC Headquarters in Rockville, Md. will be available to answer questions on the plant's safety performance, as well as the agency's role in ensuring safe plant operation.

"Each year, the NRC assesses the performance of all of the nation's commercial nuclear power plants," said Region IV Administrator Bruce S. Mallett. "The afternoon meeting gives us an opportunity to discuss our findings with the company, local officials and members of the public. Later that same evening, we will hold a "Town Hall" style public meeting. This type of meeting has worked well in the past in fostering dialog between members of the public and the NRC. We look forward to meeting with members of the community and answering questions they may have regarding issues related to Diablo Canyon."

A letter sent from the NRC Region IV Office to plant officials addresses the performance of the plant during 2005 and will serve as the basis for the afternoon discussion. It is available

on the NRC web site at:

http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/diab_2005q4.pdf .

Overall, Diablo Canyon operated safely during 2005. Some decline was noted during the second and third quarters of 2005 in the area of emergency preparedness drill and exercise performance. PG&E successfully addressed the issue by providing additional training and conducting numerous drills which were evaluated as successful.

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. The NRC is conducting the baseline (or routine) level of inspections during 2006. Routine inspections are performed by two NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant and by inspection specialists from the Region IV Office in Arlington, Texas.

Current performance information for Diablo Canyon Unit 1 is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/DIAB1/diab1_chart.html .

Information for Unit 2 is available at:

http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/DIAB2/diab2_chart.html .

The NRC plans to make video broadcasts of the Town Hall meeting available on SLO-Span, the San Luis Obispo County government cable access channel.

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