



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs, Region I
475 Allendale Road, King of Prussia, Pa. 19406
E-mail: opa1@nrc.gov
Site: <http://www.nrc.gov>

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Contact: Diane Screnci, 610/337-5330
Neil Sheehan, 610/337-5331

NRC ISSUES CONFIRMATORY ACTION LETTER TO EXELON REGARDING SECURITY PROGRAM PLANS FOR PEACH BOTTOM PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has issued a letter to Exelon confirming the company's plans to address concerns related to the security program for the Peach Bottom nuclear power plant. Exelon operates the two-reactor plant, which is located in Delta (York County), Pa.

Known as a Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL), it is being issued to the company to emphasize and confirm its agreement to take certain actions in response to inattentiveness on the part of some security officers at Peach Bottom. The company's actions include: detailed briefings to security force personnel on acceptable behavior; round-the-clock supervisory oversight of security activities at the plant; and keeping the NRC informed of the status of the Peach Bottom transition from a contractor security force to one that is run by Exelon.

"This CAL is intended to confirm the continuation of Exelon's short-term response to the inattentive security officer situation. The NRC's reviews are ongoing and we will not hesitate, if needed, to seek additional actions to ensure the security program is functioning as required," NRC Region I Administrator Samuel J. Collins said.

The commitments contained in the letter will remain in effect until the NRC has reviewed Exelon's root cause analysis of the security program issues, the company's corrective actions and implementation schedule, and the company's method for assessing the effectiveness of the corrective actions.

On Sept. 20, the NRC sent an eight-member Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) to Peach Bottom to look into information that security officers at the facility may have been inattentive while on duty. The inspection was concluded on Sept. 28 and a public meeting with Exelon held in Delta on Oct. 9 to provide preliminary results of that review. Among other things, the inspection confirmed that multiple security guards were inattentive on multiple occasions and that Exelon and Wackenhut, the contract security force provider, missed opportunities to identify such behavior. However, the inspection team also found that security at the plant was not

significantly degraded as a result and that Exelon took prompt action to address inattentiveness issues once they were identified.

The NRC plans to conduct a follow-up review to assess Exelon's root cause analysis and corrective actions. The team inspection is tentatively scheduled for early November. Consideration of appropriate enforcement measures will be undertaken upon completion of the NRC reviews.

The Confirmatory Action Letter will be available in the NRC's electronic document system at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> and from the agency Region I Office of Public Affairs.

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