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NRC Will Hold an Open House on 2012 D.C. Cook Nuclear Power Plant Performance on May 30

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold an open house May 30 to discuss the agency's assessment of the D.C. nuclear power plant's safety performance for last year. The two-unit nuclear station is located in Bridgman, Mich., approximately 13 miles south of Benton Harbor.

During the open house, which is scheduled for 6-8 p.m. at the Maud Preston Palenske Public Library, 500 Market Street, in nearby St. Joseph, attendees will have an opportunity to hold one-on-one discussions with NRC staff members about the plant's 2012 performance and the agency's oversight of the facility. NRC staff on hand will include the inspectors assigned to the plant on a full-time basis, and staff from the Region III office in Lisle, Ill.

"When the NRC evaluates D.C. Cook's performance for the previous year, we take a look at any and all issues that might be of concern," said Region III Administrator Charles Casto. "Then we map out our inspection plans for that specific facility, issue inspection reports and hold public meetings near the plant in order to discuss our oversight and answer questions from local residents."

The [assessment letter](#) sent from the NRC Region III office to plant officials addresses the performance of the plant during 2012 and will serve as the basis for the discussion.

Overall, the D.C. Cook plant operated safely during 2012. At the conclusion of last year, all performance indicators and inspection findings for the facility were green, or of very low risk. As a result, D.C. Cook will continue to receive the NRC's normal level of oversight during 2013.

The NRC uses color-coded inspection findings and performance indicators to assess nuclear plant performance. The colors start with green and then increase to white, yellow, or red, along with the safety significance of the issues involved. Performance indicators are statistical measurements of plant and equipment performance.

Inspections are performed by two NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant and by inspection specialists from the Region III Office in Lisle, Ill., and the agency's headquarters in Rockville, Md. Among the areas of performance to be inspected this year by NRC specialists are activities associated with radiological safety, fire safety, emergency preparedness and the requalification program for licensed plant operators.

The most current assessments for D.C. Cook [Unit 1](#) and Unit 21 is available on the [NRC](#) website.