

No: I-16-007

March 24, 2016

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

## **NRC to Hold Open House on March 30 in Salem, N.J., to Discuss 2015 Performance of Salem, Hope Creek Nuclear Plants**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will conduct a public open house on Wednesday, March 30, in Salem, N.J., to discuss the agency's annual review of safety performance at the Salem and Hope Creek nuclear power plants.

NRC staff will be at the PSEG Energy & Environmental Resource Center, located at 244 Chestnut St. in Salem, from 5 - 6:30 p.m. to discuss the plants' performance in 2015 and the agency's oversight plans for the remainder of 2016. On hand will be agency employees responsible for inspections of the plant, including the Resident Inspectors based at the Hancocks Bridge (Salem County), N.J., site on a full-time basis.

The NRC's Reactor Oversight Process is the foundational program that enables the agency to successfully complete its mission of assessing plant safety. Under that program, the NRC gauges plant performance through the use of color-coded inspection findings and performance indicators, which are statistical measurements of plant performance that can trigger additional oversight if exceeded.

Based on its 2015 reviews, the NRC determined that Salem, a two-reactor facility, and Hope Creek, which has a single reactor, operated safely during 2015. As of the end of last year, the PSEG-owned and -operated plants had no inspection findings or performance indicators that were greater than "green" (very low safety significance). Therefore, the plants are currently under the NRC's normal level of oversight.

The NRC's normal level of oversight at each U.S. nuclear power plant involves thousands of hours of inspection. In 2015, the agency devoted approximately 7,480 hours of review at Salem and 5,775 hours at Hope Creek.

"Our Annual Assessments allow us to step back at regular intervals and size up plant performance. However, we view oversight of each facility as an ongoing responsibility," NRC Region I Administrator Dan Dorman said. "In the case of Salem and Hope Creek, the plants' current performance qualifies for our normal level of oversight."

The NRC issues reports on performance at each plant twice a year: during the mid-cycle, or mid-point, of the year, and at the conclusion of the year. Inspection findings and performance indicators are also updated on a quarterly basis on the agency's website. Following the release of the Annual Assessment letters each March, the NRC meets with the public in the vicinity of each plant to discuss

the results. Normal inspections are performed by Resident Inspectors assigned to Salem and Hope Creek. Each plant has two Resident Inspectors. Reviews are also carried out at the sites by specialist inspectors assigned to the agency's Region I Office in King of Prussia, Pa.

Among the areas to be inspected this year at Salem are emergency preparedness, radiological protection and permanent plant modifications, while at Hope Creek reviews will focus on areas that include fire protection, licensed operator qualifications and the plant's corrective action program. In addition, the NRC will perform an inspection of the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) at Hope Creek.

The Annual Assessment Letter for [Salem](#) and [Hope Creek](#), as well as the [notice](#) for the March 30th open house, are available on the NRC website. Current performance information is also available for Salem [Unit 1](#) and [Unit 2](#) and [Hope Creek](#).