

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
Region III Office of Public Affairs  
801 Warrenville Road, Lisle IL 60532-4351

NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT: RIII-96-71 December 2, 1996  
CONTACT: Jan Strasma 630/829-9663  
Angela Dauginas 630/829-9662  
E-mail: opa3@nrc.gov

SPECIAL NRC TEAM INSPECTION BEGINNING  
AT POINT BEACH NUCLEAR POWER STATION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is conducting a special two-week team inspection to evaluate operational safety at the Point Beach Nuclear Power Station. The plant, operated by Wisconsin Electric Power Co., is at Two Creeks, Wisconsin.

The inspection begins today (December 2), and will conclude Friday, December 13. The team will present its preliminary findings in a meeting with utility officials on Friday, December 20.

That meeting will be at 10 a.m. in the Two Creeks Town Hall, located at State Highway 42 and Tapawingo Road north of Two Rivers, Wisconsin. The meeting will be open to public observation.

The inspection was scheduled to provide a broad review of plant activities following problems earlier this year with control room operations and with the equipment testing program. These issues were the subject of a predecisional enforcement conference between the NRC staff and the utility in September. A decision on the enforcement action is still pending.

The team inspection will include around-the-clock surveillance of routine activities in the plant's control room for several days. Inspectors will also review maintenance, testing, and engineering activities.

The 10-person team is headed by Melvyn Leach, Chief of the NRC's Region III Operator Licensing Branch. Steven Ray, Senior Resident Inspector at the Prairie Island Nuclear Power Station in Minnesota, is the assistant team leader.

Other team members include engineering and reactor operations specialists from the Region III office in Lisle, Illinois; another senior resident inspector and a resident inspector from other sites; and a human factors specialist from NRC Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland.

# # # # #