

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Public Affairs, Region I
475 Allendale Road King of Prussia, PA 19406
Fax: 610/337-5241
Internet: dps@nrc.gov or nas@nrc.gov

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NRC TO HOLD "ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION" AT PUBLIC MEETING
IN OSWEGO, N.Y., ON NEW REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROGRAM

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with invited community leaders, industry representatives and members of public interest groups on Thursday, January 6, 2000, for a "roundtable" discussion of the agency's new reactor oversight process. A pilot program for the new process is currently in use at the James A. FitzPatrick nuclear power plant, located in Scriba, N.Y.

The meeting will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Econo Lodge Hotel, 70 East First Street, in Oswego, N.Y. The roundtable discussion portion of the meeting will be open for public observation. Members of the public will have an opportunity to present their views to NRC officials afterward.

The FitzPatrick plant, operated by the New York Power Authority, is one of 13 plants at nine sites nationwide participating in the pilot program, which began June 1 to allow for testing and adjustments to the new oversight process. A public meeting is planned for each site. Following a trial period lasting several months, to determine if revisions are needed, the process is expected to be extended next year to all 103 U.S. commercial nuclear power reactors.

The NRC is seeking input from the public on the new process, which is designed to maintain safety, improve public confidence, increase efficiency and effectiveness, and reduce unnecessary regulatory burden. The changes reflect, in part, improvements in nuclear power plant safety performance over the past 20 years. Plants that perform well generally will have less regulatory oversight than plants that have problems.

In addition to FitzPatrick, the pilot plant sites are: (1) Salem 1 and 2, in Hancocks Bridge, N.J., operated by Public Service Electric & Gas (PSE&G) Co.; (2) Hope Creek, Hancocks Bridge, N.J., also operated by PSE&G; (3) Shearon Harris, near Raleigh, N.C., operated by Carolina Power & Light Co.; (4) Sequoyah 1 and 2, near Chattanooga, Tenn., operated by the Tennessee Valley Authority; (5) Prairie Island 1 and 2, near Minneapolis, Minn., operated by Northern States Power Co.; (6) Quad Cities 1 and 2, near Moline, Ill., operated by Commonwealth Edison Co.; (7) Ft. Calhoun, near Omaha, Neb., operated by the Omaha Public Power District; and (8) Cooper, near Nebraska City, Neb., operated by the Nebraska Public Power District.

Information on the new oversight program, including a list of questions that will be discussed at the roundtable meeting, is available on the NRC web site at:

<http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/index.html>.

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