



NRC NEWS

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NRC INSPECTION TEAM TO PRESENT FINDINGS APRIL 5 ON DAVIS-BESSE REACTOR VESSEL HEAD DAMAGE

Second meeting to discuss plant performance in 2001

A Nuclear Regulatory Commission inspection team will meet with representatives of FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company on April 5 to discuss the preliminary findings of its inspection into the corrosion damage of the reactor vessel head at the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station. The reactor, which has been shut down since February 16 for refueling and maintenance, is located near Oak Harbor, Ohio.

The meeting will be at 9 a.m. in the auditorium at Oak Harbor High School, 11661 West State Route 163 in Oak Harbor. The meeting will be open to the public for observation. Before the meeting is concluded, NRC officials will answer questions from members of the public.

A second meeting will be conducted at 1 p.m. in the high school auditorium for the NRC staff to discuss the results of the agency's assessment of safety performance at the Davis-Besse plant from April 1 through December 31 of last year. It, too, will be open to the public with an opportunity for questions from the public at the end of the meeting.

During the current outage, FirstEnergy personnel discovered significant corrosion damage in a portion of the reactor vessel head. The damage resulted in a cavity in the low-alloy steel vessel head 4 to 5 inches wide, 7 inches long, and about 6 inches deep. The remaining thickness of the vessel head in this area was reported as approximately 3/8 inches of stainless steel cladding on the interior of the head.

The NRC dispatched an Augmented Inspection Team to review the vessel head damage on March 12.

Information and documents related to the vessel head damage are available on the NRC web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/ops-experience/vessel-head-degradation.html>

A letter sent from the NRC Region III office to FirstEnergy addresses plant performance during the April-December period and will serve as the basis for the 1 p.m. meeting discussion. It is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/davi_2001q4.pdf

Current performance information for the Davis-Besse facility is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/DAVI/davi_chart.html

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