



NRC NEWS

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NRC TO MEET WITH OFFICIALS FROM EXELON NUCLEAR TO DISCUSS SAFETY PERFORMANCE AT LA SALLE

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with officials from the Exelon Generation Company on Thursday, April 3, to discuss the results of NRC's annual assessment of the La Salle nuclear power plant, located near Seneca, Illinois.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at the Brookfield Township Hall, Grand Ridge-Mazon Road, in Seneca. The public is invited to observe the meeting, and NRC officials will be available before the conclusion of the meeting for questions and comments from the public.

A letter from the NRC to the Exelon Generation Company addresses plant safety performance during the previous year and forms the basis for the meeting discussions. The letter states that, overall, La Salle operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and that plant performance was at a level requiring no additional NRC inspection beyond normal baseline activities.

The letter also states that there was a safety significant performance indicator, which had to do with the number of unplanned reactor scrams, and a substantive cross-cutting issue in the area of human performance during the first two quarters of 2002. The NRC monitored those two areas closely throughout the year and concluded that the utility's corrective actions have effectively addressed both issues.

The letter is available from Region III Public Affairs Office and on the NRC web site at:

http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/lasa_2002q4.pdf

In addition, the letter notes: "As you are aware, since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the NRC has issued several Orders and threat advisories to enhance security capabilities and improve guard force readiness. We have conducted inspections to review your implementation of these requirements and have monitored your actions in response to changing threat advisories. For calendar year 2003, we plan to continue these inspections and conduct portions of the security baseline inspection program, as well as perform additional inspections to evaluate your compliance with new requirements that may be ordered."

Current performance information for La Salle is available on the NRC web site at:

<http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/index.html#section2>

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