



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS -- REGION I

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No. I-03-023

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April 1, 2003

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NRC TO DISCUSS ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS OF INDIAN POINT 2 AND 3 NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with representatives of Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc., on Monday, April 7, to discuss the results of the agency's annual assessment of safety performance at the Indian Point 2 and 3 nuclear power plants. The plants are located in Buchanan, N.Y., and operated by Entergy.

The meeting, which will be open to the public for observation, is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. in the Vincent F. Nyberg General Meeting Room at Cortlandt Town Hall, 1 Heady St. in Cortlandt. Before the session is adjourned, NRC staff will be available to answer questions from the public on the safety performance of the Indian Point plants, as well as the role of the NRC in ensuring safe plant operation. The performance period to be discussed is January 1 to December 31, 2002.

Letters sent from the NRC Region I Office to plant officials addresses the performance of the facilities during the period and will serve as the basis for the meeting discussion. The letter regarding Indian Point 2 is available on the NRC web site at:

http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/inpt_2002q4.pdf

The letter regarding Indian Point 3 is available on the NRC web site at:

http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/inp3_2002q4.pdf

The Indian Point 2 letter states that, overall, performance continued to improve at the plant and margins of safety have been strengthened. "Entergy completed important upgrades to the security program, some of which were mandated by the NRC's February 2002 Order," it states. "Management has continued to focus station efforts on priority work and, as a result, progress has been made in correcting important equipment problems, such as control room deficiencies.

"However, additional work is needed to reduce overall maintenance and corrective action backlogs, which remain relatively high," the letter continues. "Continued efforts are also needed to address human performance errors and plant design control legacy issues."

During the last quarter of the last assessment period, the plant was categorized as being a “degraded cornerstone” plant under the NRC’s Reactor Oversight Program. (“Cornerstones” are measures of performance used by the NRC.) Earlier in the assessment period, Indian Point 2 had been categorized as a plant with “multiple degraded cornerstones.”

The NRC notes that it has maintained heightened oversight of the plant for the past several years. As progress continues, the agency intends to maintain a heightened level of oversight at Indian Point 2 at least through the end of the current assessment period in December. The NRC will follow up on Entergy’s efforts through focused inspections by the agency’s resident inspectors at the plant and region-based specialists, as well as through periodic performance monitoring meetings. The agency also plans to perform inspections targeted at security measures and enhancements for both Indian Point 2 and 3. Further, the NRC expects to work closely with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the state, the counties and Entergy, as appropriate, to address off-site emergency planning and preparedness issues.

In the letter to Entergy regarding Indian Point 3, the NRC stated that, overall, the plant “operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives.” Therefore, the agency plans to conduct only baseline inspections for that unit through March 31, 2004.

Current performance information for Indian Point 2 is available on the NRC web site at:
http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/IP2/ip2_chart.html

Current performance information for Indian Point 3 is available on the NRC web site at:
http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/IP3/ip3_chart.html

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