



NRC NEWS

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MEETING ON STATUS OF ONGOING NRC INSPECTION AT POINT BEACH

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet Wednesday, August 27, in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, with Nuclear Management Company officials to discuss the status of an ongoing special inspection reviewing performance at the Point Beach Nuclear Power Station. The two-reactor facility is located near Two Rivers, Wisconsin.

The meeting, which is open to public observation, will be at 6:30 p.m. in the Holiday Inn, 4601 Calumet Avenue, Manitowoc. The public is invited to observe the business portion of the meeting and will have an opportunity to make comments and ask questions of the NRC staff before the meeting is adjourned.

The special inspection, which began July 28, results from a potential safety problem with an auxiliary cooling water system which was initially discovered by the utility in 2001 and subsequently corrected.

The special inspection is focusing on three areas, each involving two weeks of onsite inspection: (1) the corrective action program - how the utility finds and corrects problems; (2) the emergency preparedness program - how the utility would respond to an emergency at the plant; and (3) a broad review of the plant's engineering, operations, and maintenance programs.

The on-site portions of the corrective action inspection and the emergency preparedness inspection have been completed, and the results are being evaluated. The engineering, operations, and maintenance inspection will be conducted during the weeks of September 8 and September 22.

In the August 27 meeting, the NRC staff will discuss the status of the inspection and, in addition, Nuclear Management officials will review their performance improvement initiatives at the plant. Another meeting will be held in mid-October to discuss the preliminary findings of all three phases of the inspection.

The report of the team's findings will be publicly available from the Region III Office of Public Affairs and on the NRC's web site: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html> - use Docket Number 05000266 to locate the document. The report is expected to be issued in November. Assistance in using the web reading room is available by calling the NRC Public Document Room at 800-397-4209.

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