



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs, Region I
475 Allendale Road, King of Prussia, Pa. 19406
Site: <http://www.nrc.gov>

No. I-10-016
Contact: Diane Screnci, 610/337-5330
Neil Sheehan, 610/337-5331

April 7, 2010
E-mail: opa1@nrc.gov

NRC TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE ON APRIL 13 IN MIDDLETOWN, PA. TO DISCUSS ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF THREE MILE ISLAND 1 NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will conduct an open house on Tuesday, April 13 regarding the agency's annual assessment of safety performance for the Three Mile Island 1 nuclear power plant during 2009.

The open house will run from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Londonderry Township Building, at 748 South Geyers Church Road in Middletown, Pa. Members of the public will have an opportunity to learn first-hand from NRC staff members about performance at the plant during 2009, as well as NRC oversight of the facility. The meeting format being used will allow citizens to discuss plant-related topics on a one-on-one basis with NRC inspectors assigned to the plant and their NRC Region I supervisor.

Three Mile Island 1 is a pressurized-water reactor located in Middletown (Dauphin County). It is owned and operated by Exelon Nuclear.

Overall, Three Mile Island 1 operated safely during 2009. At the conclusion of last year, as assessed by the NRC Reactor Oversight Process, there were no performance indicators for the plant that were other than "green" and no inspection findings that were "greater than green." Therefore, for the remainder of 2010, Three Mile Island 1 will continue to receive the very detailed inspection regime used by the NRC for plants that are operating well.

The NRC staff continues to review an event at Three Mile Island 1 on Nov. 21, 2009, in which a number of workers experienced minor radioactive contamination during a refueling and maintenance outage at the plant. The levels of contamination were low and did not pose a health or safety concern for the affected workers, other employees or the public. The results of the NRC inspection of the event will be made public during the second quarter of 2010.

In 2009, the NRC devoted 6,200 hours to inspection of the facility, including five major team inspections.

“Each year, the NRC steps back and assesses the performance of nuclear power plants in a systematic and detailed manner. We take these reviews very seriously and they help guide our oversight in the year ahead,” NRC Region I Administrator Samuel J. Collins said. “We also believe that providing the public with an opportunity to not only learn about these results first-hand but to communicate with us on our determinations is an integral part of the process and consistent with our commitment to openness and transparency.”

The NRC utilizes a combination of color-coded inspection findings and performance indicators to gauge plant performance. The colors start with “green,” representing very low safety significance, to “white,” “yellow” or “red,” commensurate with the significance of the issues involved. The agency issues its review of performance at specific plants twice a year. Inspection findings and performance indicators are also updated on the NRC’s web site, www.nrc.gov, each quarter. Following the release of the annual performance reviews every March, the public is provided with an opportunity to discuss the results. The meetings, which are held in the vicinity of each plant, are in keeping with the agency’s commitment to transparency with regard to its activities.

The annual assessment letter for the Three Mile Island 1 plant is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/tmi_2009q4.pdf. The notice for the open house is available in the NRC’s Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) under accession number ML100810315. ADAMS is available at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. Help in using ADAMS can be obtained via the NRC’s Public Document Room at 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail at PDR.Resources@NRC.GOV.

Routine inspections are carried out by two NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant and by inspection specialists from the agency’s Region I Office in King of Prussia, Pa. Among the areas at Three Mile Island 1 to be inspected this year by NRC specialists are emergency preparedness, permanent plant modifications, radiation monitoring and Exelon’s ability to identify and resolve problems at the plant.

Current performance information for Three Mile Island 1 is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/TMI1/tmi1_chart.html.

###

News releases are available through a free *listserv* subscription at the following Web address: <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/listserver.html>. The NRC homepage at www.nrc.gov also offers a SUBSCRIBE link. E-mail notifications are sent to subscribers when news releases are posted to NRC's Web site.