



# NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs, Region I  
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No. I-10-020

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April 14, 2010

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## **NRC TO HOLD MEETING APRIL 22 IN CORTLANDT MANOR, N.Y. TO DISCUSS ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF INDIAN POINT NUCLEAR POWER PLANT**

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold a public meeting on Thursday, April 22 regarding the agency's annual assessment of safety performance for the Indian Point nuclear power plant during 2009.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. at the Colonial Terrace, at 119 Oregon Road in Cortlandt Manor, N.Y. (Directions to the facility are available at: <http://colonialterracecaterers.com/directions.htm>.) Prior to the meeting's adjournment, there will be an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions of the NRC staff regarding the plant's performance, as well as the agency's oversight of the facility.

The NRC staff will also conduct an informational poster-board session for interested members of the public in conjunction with the meeting. That session will run from 6 to 7 p.m. in a room adjacent to the main meeting room at the same location.

Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc., owns and operates Indian Point, which is the site of two operating pressurized-water reactors and is located in Buchanan (Westchester County), N.Y.

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.

Overall, Indian Point Units 2 and 3 operated safely during 2009. At the conclusion of last year, there were no performance indicators for Indian Point Unit 2 that were other than "green" and no inspection findings that were "greater than green." Therefore, for the remainder of 2010, Indian Point Unit 2 will continue to receive the normal, very detailed inspection regime used by the NRC for plants that are operating well.

Indian Point Unit 3 had one “white” (low to moderate safety significance) performance indicator as of the end of 2009. The affected performance indicator has to do with Unplanned Scrams per 7,000 Critical Hours. Specifically, if a plant has more than three unplanned reactor shutdowns during the previous 7,000 hours of operation, the performance indicator would change from “green” to “white” and the facility would receive additional scrutiny from the NRC. Indian Point Unit 3 crossed that threshold in the third quarter of last year.

In response to the performance indicator change, the NRC plans to conduct a supplemental inspection at Indian Point Unit 3 beginning on April 19. The purpose of the inspection will be to ensure Entergy fully understands the root cause, or causes, for the performance issues; has identified other safety systems that might be similarly affected by these issues; and has implemented sufficient corrective actions to prevent a recurrence.

Indian Point continued to receive augmented NRC oversight with respect to groundwater contamination issues last year. In August and September, a team of NRC inspectors reviewed Entergy activities associated with the characterization and mitigation of groundwater contamination at the site. Based on those results and other oversight activities, including the agency’s independent testing of groundwater samples, the NRC has concluded that Indian Point has satisfied the closure requirements for a Deviation Memorandum dedicating additional inspection resources to this area. (Normally, a plant in the "Licensee Response Column" of the NRC's Action Matrix, at [http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/actionmatrix\\_summary.html](http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/actionmatrix_summary.html), receives the NRC’s baseline, or routine, level of oversight. However, when conditions warrant, the NRC’s Executive Director for Operations can sign out a Deviation Memorandum allowing additional resources to be applied to plants in that column.) The NRC will continue to assess the plant’s groundwater monitoring program via normal inspections.

In 2009, the NRC devoted approximately 11,500 hours to inspection and related activities to the facility, including six 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. “In line with our Reactor Oversight Process, Indian Point Unit 3 will receive additional NRC attention until we are satisfied the issues that led to the ‘white’ performance indicator it received last year have been adequately addressed.”

The agency issues reviews 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](http://www.nrc.gov), each quarter. Following the release of the annual assessment letters every March, the NRC meets with the public in the vicinity of each plant to discuss the results. The meetings are in keeping with the agency’s commitment to transparency with regard to its activities.

The annual assessment letter for the Indian Point plant is available on the NRC web site at: [http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/inpt\\_2009q4.pdf](http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/inpt_2009q4.pdf). The notice for the annual assessment meeting for the plant is available in the NRC’s Agencywide Documents

Access and Management System (ADAMS) under accession number ML100810303. 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](mailto:PDR.Resources@NRC.GOV).

Routine inspections are carried out by four 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 Indian Point to be inspected this year by NRC specialists are the plant's new siren system; dry cask storage of spent nuclear fuel; fire protection; radiation safety; emergency preparedness; and the facility's problem identification and resolution program.

Current performance information for Indian Point Unit 2 is available on the NRC web site at: [http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/IP2/ip2\\_chart.html](http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/IP2/ip2_chart.html). Current performance information for Indian Point Unit 3 is available at: [http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/IP3/ip3\\_chart.html](http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/IP3/ip3_chart.html).

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