



# NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs Region III

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## **NRC WILL HOLD AN OPEN HOUSE ON 2012 PERFORMANCE OF DUANE ARNOLD NUCLEAR POWER PLANT ON APRIL 11**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold a public meeting with representatives of Duane Arnold Energy Center April 11 to discuss the agency's assessment of the plant's safety performance for last year. Duane Arnold nuclear station is located in Palo, Iowa, approximately eight miles northwest of Cedar Rapids.

During the open house, which is scheduled for 5 to 7 p.m. CDT at the Palo City Hall/Community Center, City Council Chambers Room, 2800 Hollenbeck Rd, in Palo, attendees will have an opportunity to hold one-on-one discussions with NRC staff members about the plant's 2012 performance and the agency's oversight of the facility. NRC staff on hand will include the inspectors assigned to the plant on a full-time basis, and staff from the Region III Office in Lisle, Ill.

“When the NRC evaluates Duane Arnold's performance for the previous year, we take a look at any and all issues that might be of concern,” said Region III Administrator Charles Casto. “Then we map out our inspection plans for that specific facility, issue inspection reports and hold public meetings near the plant in order to discuss our oversight and answer questions from local residents.”

The [assessment letter](#) sent from the NRC Region III office to plant officials addresses the performance of the plant during 2012 and will serve as the basis for the discussion.

Overall, the Duane Arnold plant operated safely during 2012. At the conclusion of last year, all performance indicators and inspection findings for the facility were green, or of very low risk. As a result, Duane Arnold will continue to receive the NRC's normal level of oversight during 2013.

The NRC uses color-coded inspection findings and performance indicators to assess nuclear plant performance. The colors start with green and then increase to white, yellow, or red, commensurate with the safety significance of the issues involved. Performance indicators are statistical measurements of plant and equipment performance.

Inspections are performed by two NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant and by inspection specialists from the Region III Office in Lisle, Ill., and the agency's headquarters in Rockville, Md. Among the areas of performance to be inspected this year by NRC specialists are activities associated with radiological safety; emergency preparedness; underground pipes and tanks; and the dry cask storage of spent nuclear fuel.

The most current [performance assessment](#) for Duane Arnold is available on the [NRC](#) website.

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