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NRC Schedules Open House Aug. 31 to Discuss Performance of DC Cook Nuclear Power Plant

Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials will hold an open house Aug. 31 to discuss the agency's assessment of the DC Cook Nuclear Power Plant's performance during 2014. The two-unit plant is operated by Indiana Michigan Power Co., and is located in Bridgman, Mich., approximately 13 miles south of Benton Harbor.

The open house is scheduled for 5 to 7 p.m. EDT at the Maud Preston Palenske Memorial Library, Norris Room, 500 Market St., in St. Joseph. The NRC staff will be available for discussions about the performance of the DC Cook plant and other topics related to the NRC's regulatory activities.

"We host open houses, which are informal meetings between the NRC staff and the public, to have an open dialogue with local residents about the plant and other NRC-related issues of interest to the public," said NRC Region III Administrator Cynthia D. Pederson. "It is a great opportunity for people to meet our resident inspectors and other staff; and a great opportunity for us to speak with people who live near the plant."

The NRC concluded that, overall, DC Cook Units 1 and 2 operated safely in 2014. All performance indicators and inspection findings for DC Cook were "green" and both units remained in Column 1 of the action matrix. As a result, both units will continue to receive the NRC's normal level of oversight during 2015.

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. The NRC's action matrix reflects overall plant performance and agency response. There are five columns in the matrix with Column 1 requiring a baseline level of inspections. A move to the other columns results in an increased level of NRC oversight and inspections.

Inspections are performed by two NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant, inspection specialists from the Region III Office in Lisle, Ill., and specialists from the agency's headquarters in Rockville, Md. Among the areas of performance to be inspected this year by NRC inspectors are activities associated with radiological safety, equipment designs, and emergency preparedness.

The NRC's [2014 assessment letter](#) and current performance information for [Unit 1](#) and [Unit 2](#) is available on the NRC website.