



Cooper: One of 13 nuclear power plants reporting no problems in the NRC's reactor oversight pilot program.

NO SIGNIFICANT PERFORMANCE PROBLEMS WERE IDENTIFIED from any of the mid-cycle reviews of the 13 nuclear power plants participating in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's pilot revised reactor oversight program, the agency announced on January 12. The mid-cycle reviews are available on the NRC's Web site, at <www.nrc.gov/OPA/ppr>.

The NRC began testing the pilot program at 13 plants last summer (*NN*, May 1999, p. 21) and is expected to extend it to all 103 operating reactors this spring. The program, according to the NRC, is designed to be "more objective, understandable, and predictable," while focusing agency resources on areas that have the greatest impact on safe plant operation. Under the program, mid-cycle and end-of-cycle reviews will contain an analysis of plant performance and a 12-month inspection plan that will periodically be updated to reflect changes in a plant's performance and resource allocations. All reviews will be posted to the NRC's Web page, along with the text of letters sent to each plant's operating company. Public meetings will continue to be held annually under the revised program, although no meetings for the 13 pilot plants are scheduled. Any future meetings will be announced and open to the public, the NRC said.

The 13 plants participating in the pilot program are Carolina Power & Light Company's Shearon Harris, in New Hill, N.C.; Commonwealth Edison Company's Quad Cities-1 and -2, in Cordova, Ill.; Nebraska Public Power District's Cooper, in Brownville, Neb.; New York Power Authority's James A. FitzPatrick, in Scriba, N.Y.; Northern States Power Company's Prairie Island-1 and -2, in Red Wing, Minn.; Omaha Public Power District's Fort Calhoun, in Fort Calhoun, Neb.; Public Service Electric & Gas's Hope Creek and Salem-1 and -2, in Salem, N.J.; and Tennessee Valley Authority's Sequoyah-1 and -2, in Soddy-Daisy, Tenn.

A full description of the revised reactor oversight program is available on the NRC's Web sites, at <www.nrc.gov/OPA/primer.htm> and <www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/index.html>.