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NRC to Hold Public Meeting May 26 to Discuss Performance of Monticello Nuclear Power Plant

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will hold a public meeting on May 26 to discuss the agency's annual review of safety performance of the Monticello nuclear power plant. The plant is operated by Northern States Power Co.-Minnesota, and is located in Monticello, Minn., approximately 30 miles northwest of Minneapolis.

The meeting is scheduled for 6-8 p.m. CDT at the Albertville Community Center, 5959 Main Ave. NE, in Albertville. The NRC will present its assessment of the plant's 2015 performance, talk about agency activities and be available to respond to questions or comments from the public.

"NRC inspectors who work at the plant and NRC staff from our regional office in Lisle, Ill., are looking forward to speaking with members of the public about the performance of the Monticello plant and other topics related to nuclear safety," said NRC Region III Administrator Cynthia D. Pederson. "We hold these meetings every year to share information about the activities we conduct to ensure the plant operates safely and foster an open dialogue with interested members of the public."

The NRC's performance action matrix reflects overall plant performance and agency response. There are five columns in the matrix with Column 1 requiring a baseline level of inspection. A move up to another column results in an increased level of NRC oversight and inspections. Performance indicators are statistical measurements of plant and equipment performance.

Overall, the Monticello facility operated safely last year. All performance indicators were "green" or low safety significance. A security finding was issued at the end of 2014. This finding, in addition to a previously identified yellow finding, would have resulted in a move to Column 4 and a significant increase in inspection. However, the NRC determined the plant's performance did not warrant this move and issued a [deviation memo](#) to the plant which placed it in Column 2.

The deviation memo noted that human performance issues continued to occur and needed to be addressed. As a result, the plant committed to perform an independent safety culture assessment with a focus on human performance. The deviation will remain open until the NRC completes its assessment of the plant's safety culture evaluation.

The plant moved to Column 1 by the end of 2015. While the details on the security finding are not publically available, the plant corrected the issue and the NRC conducted a follow-up inspection to verify the plant's actions.

Monticello will also continue to receive the detailed routine inspections conducted at all nuclear power plants. Routine inspections are performed by two NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant and by inspection specialists from the Region III Office in Lisle and the agency's headquarters in Rockville, Md.

The NRC's [2015 assessment letter](#) and [current performance](#) information is available on the NRC website.