



# Nuclear Energy Information Service

*Illinois' Nuclear Power Watchdog since 1981*

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **IL EPA fails to make 10 inspections of nuclear plants in 2009-10, Auditor General reports**

#### **Inspection lapse calls into question legislative push to repeal nuclear moratorium**

**CHICAGO**—An Illinois Auditor General report of the IL Environmental Protection Agency states that 10 quarterly inspections of Illinois nuclear reactors mandated by law were skipped by the EPA in FY 2009 and FY2010.

“This is a serious breach of the law protecting the public health and safety,” asserts Dave Kraft, Director of the Nuclear Energy Information Service, an Illinois nuclear power watchdog organization.

“Eternal vigilance is the price you have to pay with nuclear power – especially when you have 1000-Hiroshima’s worth of radiation stored inside a building,” Kraft maintains.

“That the state agency charge with monitoring these reactors missed these inspections demonstrates the State’s inability to guarantee that it has the resources in place to protect the public and the environment in nuclear affairs – a dangerous situation, given that Illinois is the most nuclear-reliant state in the nation,” Kraft points out.

That Auditor General’s report states:

“...two quarterly inspections were not made for two of the six nuclear power plants in Illinois during fiscal year 2009. In addition, quarterly inspections for the first, second and fourth quarters of fiscal year 2010 for another two of the six nuclear power plants were not made.”

“The Environmental Protection Act (415 ILCS 5113.6(d)) (Act) states the Agency and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency shall inspect each nuclear power plant for compliance no less than once each calendar quarter for release of radionuclides.”

The Agency claimed the inspections did not occur due to “time constraints” in meeting legislative implementation deadlines; and the “lack of trained staff”. In response the EPA added one additional staff to conduct these inspections in the future.

“If for whatever reasons Illinois inspecting agencies cannot meet their legal obligations to conduct these inspections, the legislature has no business introducing legislation that could result in the construction of even more reactors,” says Kraft, referring to legislative proposals to repeal what is known as the “Illinois nuclear construction moratorium” (HB157).

“Building more reactors would only add to the inspection obligations that the State cannot meet even now, with the current fourteen reactors. Better for the legislature to find funding for more EPA inspectors, than to compound an already unacceptable problem,” Kraft concluded.