



NRC NEWS

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, REGION II

61 Forsyth Street SW, Atlanta GA 30303

Web Site: www.nrc.gov

No. II-06-007

March 24, 2006

CONTACT: Ken Clark (404)562-4416

E-mail: OPA2@nrc.gov

Roger Hannah (404)562-4417

NRC SENDS SPECIAL INSPECTION TEAM TO VOGTLE NUCLEAR PLANT TO REVIEW CAUSE OF REPEAT LEAKAGE IN SHUTDOWN COOLING SYSTEM

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission Region II office in Atlanta has sent a special team of inspectors to the Vogtle nuclear power plant, operated by Southern Nuclear Operating Company near Waynesboro, Ga., to look into the cause of repeat weld leakage in a small line which is part of the plant's Unit 2 Residual Heat Removal (RHR) system.

Dr. William Travers, administrator of the agency's Atlanta office, said the leak posed no threat to the health and safety of plant personnel and resulted in no outside release of radioactive material. It contained small amount of reactor coolant which leaked into the containment building. As a result, the reactor, which experienced similar weld leaks in December of 2005 and February of this year, was shut down March 20 for repair and modification.

He said air samples inside the containment building initially indicated the possibility of a small reactor cooling system leak, Also, a camera-equipped robot indicated the presence of a small steam leak on the bypass line of the RHR system suction valve.

Dr. Travers said the NRC special inspection team will review circumstances associated with the event and monitor the company's efforts to identify and correct the cause of the problem.

###