



# NRC NEWS

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475 Allendale Road, King of Prussia, Pa.  
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Contact: Diane Screnci, 610/337-5330  
Neil Sheehan, 610/337-5331

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E-mail: [opa1@nrc.gov](mailto:opa1@nrc.gov)

## **NRC PERFORMING SPECIAL INSPECTION AT INDIAN POINT 2 NUCLEAR PLANT; SMALL AMOUNT OF LEAKAGE FROM SPENT FUEL POOL AREA UNDER REVIEW**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has initiated a special inspection into leakage from the spent fuel pool area at the Indian Point 2 nuclear power plant. The leakage, which was discovered recently at the Buchanan, N.Y., facility, is minimal and does not pose any immediate health or safety concern for members of the public or plant workers.

An NRC health physics specialist, who arrived on site last week, and the NRC's two Resident Inspectors at Indian Point 2 have been closely following the actions of Entergy, which owns and operates the plant. The special inspection, chartered by the NRC, will be conducted by the health physics specialist and additional agency inspectors, as appropriate.

Spent fuel pools are deep, water-filled storage structures designed to hold the fuel assemblies that have been used in the reactor. Containing hundreds of thousands of gallons of cooling water, these pools have stainless-steel liners surrounded by steel-reinforced concrete walls measuring several feet in thickness.

During recent excavation work being done in conjunction with the dry cask spent fuel storage project, workers identified several hairline cracks on concrete walls for the Indian Point 2 pool. Slight seepage has been collected. It is not yet clear whether the seepage is from a current or prior leak.

The leakage is estimated to be very small. For example, recent efforts by plant staff to collect leakage have yielded less than a pint per day. Samples of soil in the vicinity of where the leakage was found indicate that radioactive contamination is limited to an area in close proximity to the cracking.

The NRC team will, among other things, review the company's evaluation of the pool structure, evaluate remedial actions on the part of the company, and assess any potential environmental impact of the leakage. The team will issue a report documenting its findings within 45 days of the completion of the inspection.

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