



NRC NEWS

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NRC SENDS SPECIAL INSPECTION TEAM TO NORTH ANNA NUCLEAR PLANT TO ASSESS AND INSPECT JUNE 29 UNPLANNED SHUTDOWN OF UNIT 2

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission today dispatched a Special Inspection Team to the North Anna nuclear power plant, operated by Dominion Resources near Mineral, Va. The team will inspect and assess circumstances associated with a June 29 unplanned actuation of a Unit 2 safety injection system, which caused an unplanned shutdown of the main turbine and the reactor.

NRC officials said the event appeared to be of low safety significance but that a three-person Special Inspection Team was established to provide the agency with a review of facts surrounding the event; assess the company's response and investigation; identify any generic issues and conduct an independent review of the extent to which the event might affect other Unit 2 systems or those in Unit 1, which was not affected.

The company initially reported to the NRC that the unplanned safety injection system actuation resulted in an increase in reactor cooling water which caused multiple actuations of the reactor cooling system pressurizer's power operated relief valves to lower system pressure. This water overfilled the pressurizer relief tank, causing its pressure relief disc to rupture, releasing water into the containment building sump. Plant operators manually secured the malfunctioning injection system and maintained reactor system pressure and water level control by normal charging and letdown.

The NRC said all other reactor safety systems functioned as designed and that there were no personnel injuries and no abnormal release of radioactivity to the environment.

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