



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC RESPONDS TO UNUSUAL EVENT AT THE BYRON NUCLEAR PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has responded to an unusual event at the Byron Nuclear Power Plant. The unusual event was declared on March 25, at 6:49 PM. The NRC has continuously evaluated plant conditions since the event declaration. The two-unit facility, located about 25 miles southwest of Rockford, Ill., is operated by the Exelon Generation Company.

An unusual event is the lowest of four levels in the NRC's emergency classification system. An unusual event is declared when events are in process or have occurred which indicate potential degradation in the level of safety of the plant. No release of radioactive material requiring offsite response or monitoring has occurred or is expected to occur.

"We activated the regional Incident Response Center as soon as the unusual event was declared to evaluate the utility's response to the event. The plant is in a stable condition," said James Caldwell, Regional Administrator for the NRC's mid-west region. "Our staff in the Lisle office, at NRC headquarters, and NRC inspectors at the plant monitored the plant overnight and will continue to do so until the problem has been corrected."

The unusual event was declared when outside electrical power delivered to Byron Unit 2 was interrupted due to a problem with electrical transformers. Both Byron units are in a stable condition. The incident presents no threat to public safety.

Byron Unit 1 is shut down for a refueling outage. Unit 2 did not shut down as a result of the off-site power loss. Unit 2 is sharing off-site power with Unit 1 and will continue to do so until off-site power to Unit 2 is restored.

The NRC will continue to evaluate the utility's response to the event, its efforts to identify the root cause of the problem, the proposed actions to fix the problem and the implementation of repairs.

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