



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs Region III

2443 Warrenville Road

Lisle IL 60532

Site: www.nrc.gov

Blog: <http://public-blog.nrc-gateway.gov>

No. III-11-012

April, 26 2011

Contact: Viktoria Mitlyng (630) 829-9662
Prema Chandrathil (630) 829-9663

E-Mail: OPA3.RegionIII@nrc.gov

NRC BEGINS SPECIAL INSPECTION AT PERRY NUCLEAR PLANT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has started a Special Inspection to review the circumstances around work activities that led to higher than expected radiation levels in a work area at the Perry Nuclear Power Plant.

The plant is operated by FENOC Nuclear Operating Co. and is located in Perry, Ohio about 35 miles northeast of Cleveland.

The issue involved the removal of a source range monitor from the reactor core on April 22, as the plant was shut down for a refueling outage. A source range monitor measures nuclear reactions during start up, low power operations and shutdown conditions. While performing the activities to remove the monitor, workers at the plant identified an increase in radiation levels in their work area. The workers stopped and immediately left the area when the higher than expected levels were identified. The licensee does not believe the workers received radiation in excess of NRC limits.

The plant is in a safe condition and there has been no impact to workers at the plant or members of the public from this issue.

The special inspection team began work on Monday and will review the circumstances surrounding the higher than expected radiation levels in the work area. The team will gather data to establish a sequence of events, review the utility's work planning and engineering actions, determine if there were human performance factors that may have contributed to the event and evaluate the actual radiological consequences including exposure to the workers. The team will also evaluate the utility's root cause report.

The NRC's special inspection report will be available within 45 days of the inspection's completion of through the NRC RIII Office of Public Affairs and at the NRC web site:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html>.

###

News releases are available through a free *listserv* subscription at the following Web address: <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/listserver.html>. The NRC homepage at www.nrc.gov also offers a SUBSCRIBE link. E-mail notifications are sent to subscribers when news releases are posted to NRC's website.