



NRC NEWS

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NRC TO INSPECT FUEL CYCLE FACILITIES ON PREPARATIONS FOR NATURAL DISASTERS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has directed inspections of major fuel cycle facilities to verify that licensees are adequately prepared to cope with the consequences of natural phenomena such as earthquakes and floods.

Under a “temporary instruction” (TI 2600/015 – enter “ML111030453” in NRC’s ADAMS [search engine](#)), NRC inspectors will evaluate the adequacy of emergency prevention and/or mitigation strategies for consequences of natural events that exceed a licensee’s safety or licensing basis.

Facilities covered by this TI include all commercial uranium enrichment plants, nuclear fuel fabrication plants, and uranium conversion facilities currently operating in the United States.

Inspections will be tailored to the individual facilities, but at a minimum they will evaluate seismic hazards, external flooding hazards, internal flooding hazards, wind and tornadoes, extended loss of AC or emergency power, and fire impacts.

The inspections are part of the NRC’s response to the nuclear crisis at Japan’s Fukushima-Dai-ichi nuclear power plant following the March 11 earthquake and tsunami.

The fuel cycle inspections will be completed by Sept. 30, 2012.

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