



# NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs Region III

2443 Warrenville Road

Lisle IL 60532

Site: [www.nrc.gov](http://www.nrc.gov)

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

---

No. III-12-004

January 30, 2012

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

E-Mail: [OPA3.RegionIII@nrc.gov](mailto:OPA3.RegionIII@nrc.gov)

## NRC MONITORING AN EVENT AT BYRON NUCLEAR PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission Region III office in Lisle, Illinois, has activated its incident response center and entered monitoring mode due to an Unusual Event declared at the Byron nuclear power plant Unit 2. The event was declared due to a loss of offsite power at 10:18 a.m. CT. The two-unit plant is operated by Exelon Generation Co., located in Byron, Ill., 17 miles southwest of Rockford.

The plant automatically shut down in response to the loss of offsite power. Smoke was seen from an onsite station transformer. When the plant's fire brigade responded, no evidence of fire was found. The diesel generators are currently supplying power to plant equipment. Steam is currently being released from the non-nuclear side of the plant to aid in the cooling process. The steam release does not present a threat to the public.

Unit 1 remains at full power.

NRC resident inspectors at the plant are monitoring the situation in consultation with staff in the Region 3 office in Lisle, Ill.

An Unusual Event is the lowest of four levels of the NRC's emergency classification system.

###

News releases are available through a free [Listserv subscription](#) or by clicking on the [EMAIL UPDATES](#) link on the NRC homepage ([www.nrc.gov](http://www.nrc.gov)). E-mail notifications are sent to subscribers when news releases are posted to NRC's website. For the latest news, follow the NRC on [www.twitter.com/NRCgov](http://www.twitter.com/NRCgov).