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NRC INSPECTION TEAM TO REPORT ON INDIAN POINT 2 FINDINGS

A team of Nuclear Regulatory Commission inspectors, sent to the Indian Point 2 nuclear power plant last week to look into a reactor trip with complications, will present its findings on Monday, September 20. The meeting, which will be open to the public for observation, will begin at 11 a.m. in the Visitors Center Auditorium at the plant, located at Broadway and Bleakley Avenue in Buchanan, N.Y.

Known as an Augmented Inspection Team, the group of NRC inspectors was charged with reviewing the causes of and plant response to the August 31st event.

Indian Point 2 experienced a trip, or an automatic shutdown, after the receipt of a spurious signal in a reactor protection system. A few minutes later, the plant's three emergency diesel generators, which provide power in the event of the loss of off-site power, automatically activated after they received a signal indicating that insufficient voltage was available to some plant safety systems.

However, one of the emergency diesel generators failed to load properly and that led to the eventual draindown of a battery that serves as a backup power source. In turn, the plant lost a number of its control room annunciators, or alarm panels. In response, plant operators declared an Unusual Event -- the lowest of four levels of emergency classification -- at about 9:55 p.m. The annunciators were restored at about 1:30 p.m. on September 1.

Following the September 20 assessment, NRC officials will be available to answer questions from local officials and members of the press and public.

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