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Region III Office of Public Affairs
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NRC INSPECTION TEAM TO PRESENT PRELIMINARY FINDINGS
ON CIRCUIT BREAKER FAILURE AT CLINTON NUCLEAR PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet Wednesday, August 20, with representatives of Illinois Power Company to discuss the preliminary findings of the NRC Augmented Inspection Team's review of a circuit breaker failure at the Clinton Nuclear Power Plant.

The meeting will be at 10 a.m. in the Energy and Environmental Center at the Clinton plant on Illinois Route 54, east of Clinton, Illinois. It will be open to public observation.

The circuit breaker failure occurred on August 5 as the utility was changing from one pump to another in the plant's shutdown cooling system. During the changing of pumps, the circuit breaker should have opened to shut off power to one of the pumps. The 4,160 volt circuit breaker, however, failed to open when it received the 'open' signal from plant operators.

The utility was preparing to start up the plant after a lengthy outage when the circuit breaker failed. The plant has remained shut down.

The Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) included electrical specialists and other inspectors from the NRC's regional office in Lisle, Illinois, and from its headquarters in Rockville, Maryland.

The team will issue a written report in three to four weeks. It will be available to the public.

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