



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC CONDUCTING SPECIAL INSPECTION AT COOPER NUCLEAR STATION

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is conducting a special inspection at the Cooper Nuclear Station in response to the failure of a pipe that supplies lubricating oil to an emergency diesel generator. Nebraska Public Power District operates the plant, located near Brownville, Neb.

On January 27, during a monthly surveillance test of the diesel, the pipe began leaking oil. The licensee believes the leak was caused by a vibration induced failure. The diesel generators are used to supply power to plant safety systems in the event of a loss of off-site power during emergencies

A year ago, a leak was found in a similar pipe supplying oil to a second emergency diesel generator. The licensee replaced pipes on both diesel generators.

“Based on this most recent leak, and the similarity of the problems, we have questions about the effectiveness of the licensee’s corrective actions and we want to take a closer look at this matter,” said Region IV Administrator Elmo E. Collins.

A four-member team of NRC specialists will review the circumstances related to the event, the licensee’s root cause evaluation and determine whether appropriate corrective actions were taken. The team includes three reactor inspectors from the NRC’s Region IV office in Arlington, Texas, and a member of the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research from NRC Headquarters, in Rockville, Md.

The inspection began today and is expected to take several days. The team will write a report about 30 – 45 days after completion of the inspection. The report will be available on the agency’s online document library at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html>.

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