



NRC NEWS

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NRC SENDS SPECIAL INSPECTION TEAM TO FORT CALHOUN NUCLEAR PLANT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has begun a special inspection at the Fort Calhoun nuclear plant to review the circumstances surrounding the failure of an auxiliary feedwater pump. The plant, operated by the Omaha Public Power District, is located about 20 miles north of Omaha, Neb.

Inspectors, who began their work today, will identify the circumstances surrounding the pump's failure during testing, review the licensee's response to the event and its evaluation of the operability of the pump. The pump is used to supply water to the plant's steam generators during some accident conditions.

The pump started properly on Feb. 17, but shut down 20 seconds later. Operators subsequently made some adjustments to the pump and it functioned properly. However, it was decided that a special inspection was needed because this was the third failure during testing in the past 12 months of this piece of safety-related equipment.

"We want to thoroughly understand the failure and its significance because of the repeat nature of the problem and the importance of this piece of equipment in protecting plant safety," said Region IV Administrator Elmo E. Collins.

The NRC inspectors will write an inspection report on their findings within 45 days of the end of the inspection that will be publicly available.

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