



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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No. 11-081

May 13, 2011

INSPECTIONS AT U.S. NUCLEAR PLANTS PROMPT CORRECTIVE ACTIONS; REPORTS BEING MADE PUBLIC

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission Friday began issuing reports to the nation's 104 operating nuclear power plants regarding inspections of the plants' abilities to deal with power losses or damage to large areas of a reactor site following extreme events.

"Our inspectors found all the reactors would be kept safe even in the event their regular safety systems were affected by these events, although a few plants have to do a better job maintaining the necessary resources and procedures," said Eric Leeds, director of the NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. "As with all our inspections, we're making available to the public all the information not related to security issues."

The NRC carried out the inspections in the aftermath of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami in Japan and the resulting damage to the Fukushima nuclear power plant. The NRC directed its resident inspectors at every U.S. nuclear power plant to examine several areas, including the plants' mitigative strategies, sometimes called "B5b" strategies. NRC regulations call for these strategies to ensure plants can effectively cool down reactor cores and spent fuel pools following large fires, explosions or other events. The resident inspectors also examined the plants' ability to deal with: the loss of all alternating-current electricity sources; major flooding events; and fires and flooding combined with earthquakes (although this combination is not covered by existing requirements).

The NRC will use its Reactor Oversight Process to further evaluate the inspection results and ensure any issues are fixed. Examples of inspection findings include equipment that would not start when tested and mitigative equipment being used for other purposes at the plant or being stored in potentially vulnerable areas. Because the agency set May 13 as the target date for completion of these inspection reports, the individual reports are being issued as they become available. Every plant's inspection report will soon be available in one place on the NRC's [website](http://www.nrc.gov). The NRC hopes to aggregate the information in these reports for public availability in the coming week.

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