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NRC Issues White Finding to Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued a white finding of low to moderate safety significance to the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant for failing to adequately maintain the emergency core cooling system at the plant in San Luis Obispo, Calif.

Each reactor at Diablo Canyon is equipped with two emergency core cooling systems that are used to provide cooling water to a reactor under certain accident conditions. During a scheduled test conducted in May, workers discovered that a maintenance problem had rendered one of the Unit 2 emergency core cooling systems inoperable for an extended period of time, beginning as early as October 2014.

A second emergency core cooling system was available if needed. The licensee has corrected the condition and changes have been made to maintenance procedures to prevent recurrence. The issue is described in an NRC [inspection report](#). NRC staff held a regulatory conference with representatives from Pacific Gas & Electric Co. on Nov. 15, in Arlington, Texas, to discuss the issue.

The NRC evaluates regulatory performance at commercial nuclear plants with a color-coded process that categorizes inspection findings as green, white, yellow or red in order of increasing safety significance. The NRC has determined that this inspection finding has low to moderate (white) safety significance. The NRC will conduct an inspection to verify the licensee's corrective actions have been properly implemented.