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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NRC SENDS INSPECTION TEAM TO INDIAN POINT 2 NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has dispatched a four-person team of inspectors from its Region I office in King of Prussia, Pa., to the Indian Point 2 nuclear power plant to look into the causes of and plant response to a reactor trip with complications that occurred on Tuesday and led to the declaration of an Unusual Event.

Known as an Augmented Inspection Team (AIT), it will be charged with learning the facts surrounding the event.

All of the AIT members should arrive at the Buchanan, N.Y., plant by sometime today. The team's findings will be available and made public about 30 days after completion of its on-site reviews.

At 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Indian Point 2 experienced a trip, or an automatic shutdown, after the receipt of a spurious signal in a reactor protection system. A few minutes after the trip, the plant's three emergency diesel generators, which provide power in the event of the loss of off-site power, automatically activated after they received a signal indicating that insufficient voltage was available to some plant safety systems.

However, one of the emergency diesel generators failed to load properly and that led to the eventual draindown of a battery that serves as a backup power source. In turn, the plant lost a number of its control room annunciators, or alarm panels. In response, plant operators declared an Unusual Event -- the lowest of four levels of emergency classification -- at about 9:55 p.m. The annunciators were restored at about 1:30 a.m. on Wednesday.

The reactor was stabilized and remains in hot shutdown.

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