

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Office of Public Affairs, Region II

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NRC MONITORS HURRICANE FLOYD

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff is monitoring storm preparations at several nuclear plants in the southeast as Hurricane Floyd approaches the Atlantic coast.

NRC Region II has staffed its Incident Response Center in Atlanta and is currently assessing whether additional inspectors may be sent to join resident inspectors already assigned to the sites.

The current projected path of the storm takes it to the northwest, with the center of the storm possibly making landfall along the Georgia or South Carolina coast. In general, safety procedures require nuclear plants to begin shutting down should winds be projected to reach 73 miles per hour. Other preparations include securing loose equipment and making sure adequate supplies and personnel are available.

The plants that may be directly affected by Hurricane Floyd include St Lucie in Florida, Hatch in Georgia, Robinson in South Carolina and Brunswick in North Carolina, but due to the unpredictable nature of hurricanes, other plants farther inland are also tracking the storm and preparing for possible weather-related problems.

The safe operation of nuclear plants during any event, including hurricanes, remains the responsibility of the company licensed to operate the plant. The NRC's role is to monitor events for compliance with safety procedures and advise the operator if necessary.

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