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NRC AUGMENTED INSPECTION TEAM TO PRESENT FINDINGS
AT URANIUM FUEL PLANT IN MISSOURI

A Nuclear Regulatory Commission Augmented Inspection Team will meet Wednesday (August 28) with ABB Combustion Engineering, Inc., officials to discuss findings of its recent inspection at the uranium fuel facility.

The meeting will be at 10 a.m. at the facility in Hematite, Missouri, and will be open for public observation. The facility is on Highway P approximately two miles south of Highway A. After the meeting there will be an opportunity for questions from reporters and for comments and questions from members of the public.

NRC dispatched the special team to the facility on August 22 to review the circumstances surrounding the improper mixing of nitric acid and potassium hydroxide which produced a strong chemical reaction in a tank outside the facility on that day. The chemical reaction ignited a plastic liner of an adjacent tank containing flooring cleaning residue.

Surveys by the company showed no evidence of any releases of radioactive material associated with the incident. NRC's onsite team has performed independent surveys which were sent to Oak Ridge National Laboratory for evaluation.

The facility processes low-enriched uranium and manufactures fuel for nuclear power plants. The company has ceased work in the area of the tanks pending a final review by the NRC and the company.

The team will issue a written report in several weeks.

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