

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Office of Public Affairs, Region IV  
611 Ryan Plaza Drive - Suite 400  
Arlington, Texas 76011-8064  
Contact: Breck Henderson  
Office: 817-860-8128 Cellular: 817-917-1227  
E-Mail: bwh@nrc.gov

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**WATERFORD NUCLEAR PLANT TERMINATES ALERT  
NRC DEACTIVATES INCIDENT RESPONSE CENTER**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has deactivated its Incident Response Center in Arlington, Texas, at 12:45 p.m. following termination of the "Alert" condition at the Waterford 3 nuclear power plant near Taft, Louisiana.

At 11:06 a.m. operators at Waterford initiated normal shutdown cooling so that the nuclear core is now being cooled by the preferred method, and terminated the "Alert" status of the plant at 12:26 p.m.. Earlier today, at 5:33 a.m., an "Alert" was declared when about 3,000 gallons of primary cooling water drained unexpectedly into a storage pool during the first attempt to bring the shutdown cooling system on line.

The NRC is conducting a special inspection at Waterford 3 to monitor further actions and to review and report on conditions that led to the "Alert" declaration.

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