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NRC SPECIAL INSPECTION TEAM SENT TO WNP-2

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has sent a three-man inspection team to WNP-2, a nuclear reactor operated by the Washington Public Power Supply System (WPPSS) near Richland, Washington, to look into circumstances surrounding an automatic reactor shutdown that occurred Wednesday, March 11.

The shutdown was caused by a broken air line that allowed one of the plant's main steam system isolation valves to go shut. All safety equipment functioned normally, and there were no injuries or releases of radioactive material. However, the NRC staff has questions regarding the response of WNP-2 operators and some equipment indications that did not initially appear to be as expected for such an event.

The inspectors arrived at the plant March 12 and are continuing with their activities.

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