



NRC NEWS

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NRC STAFF CONCLUDES OVERVIEW PANEL FOR COOK RESTART

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has concluded its special panel overseeing the restart and performance improvement activities for the D. C. Cook Nuclear Power Station. The two-unit plant, operated by American Electric Power Co., is located at Bridgman, Michigan.

Both units were shut down in September 1997 as a result of an NRC inspection which found instances where plant safety systems did not meet their original design requirements. Additional equipment and design problems were subsequently found by the utility and by the NRC staff, leading to an extended outage.

In April 1998 the NRC established a restart panel of Region III and NRC Headquarters personnel to review the plant's outage activities and preparations for restart of the two units. The restart panel process was set up under NRC Inspection Manual Chapter 0350.

The panel held frequent meetings, open to public observation, at the NRC Region III and Headquarters offices and at the D. C. Cook plant. NRC resident inspectors at the plant and inspection personnel from the regional and headquarters offices monitored activities at the plant.

Unit 2 restarted in June of last year; Unit 1 restarted in December.

In notifying the utility that the agency had terminated the restart review process, James E. Dyer, Region III Administrator, noted that the plant staff "has established an effective long-range improvement program, is sufficiently implementing the corrective action program, has demonstrated safe plant operation and overall improving performance, and has established an effective program to update and maintain the plant's design basis."

The full text of the notification is available from the Region III Office of Public Affairs or on the NRC web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/OPA/reports>

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