



NRC NEWS

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NRC ISSUES "YELLOW" FINDING ON INDIAN POINT 2 OPERATOR TRAINING ISSUE

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has completed its final significance determination of an inspection finding at Entergy Northeast's Indian Point 2 nuclear power plant, related to the failure of crews during a facility-administered annual licensed operator requalification exam last Fall. The staff has determined that this finding should be characterized as "yellow," meaning it is an issue that, when it occurred, was of substantial importance to safety and will result in additional NRC inspection.

The finding stems from an NRC inspection conducted between October 22 and October 26 regarding the facility-administered annual licensed operator requalification examinations in which four of seven crews failed.

Under the NRC's new reactor oversight process, inspection findings are evaluated under a significance determination process and assigned a color that indicates safety significance. Findings with very low safety significance are labeled "green." "White" findings have low to moderate importance to safety and may require additional NRC inspection. "Yellow" findings have substantial safety significance, and "red" findings high safety significance.

A preliminary "yellow" finding was described in an inspection report dated December 5 of last year. The letter transmitting the report provided the company with an opportunity to either request a regulatory conference to discuss this issue or to respond in writing. The company declined the conference but did respond by letter.

Although the company did not agree with the preliminary NRC finding, the NRC reviewed Entergy's response and concluded it was appropriate to characterize the finding as yellow.

No violations of NRC requirements were identified because the operators were removed from shift following the failures and were retrained as required. The NRC also acknowledged the company has taken corrective actions to address the finding, including performing a root cause investigation and initiating a four-week intensive training and evaluation program for all operators.

Entergy has 10 days to appeal the NRC's significance determination.

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