



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC CONDUCTING SPECIAL INSPECTION AT ARKANSAS NUCLEAR ONE

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is conducting a special inspection at the Arkansas Nuclear One plant in response to a fire there that led to the declaration of an Alert on Oct. 23. The plant, located near Russellville, Ark., is operated by Entergy Operations, Inc.

A two-person team of NRC specialists will review the circumstances related to electrical breaker problems that affected a piece of safety equipment, prompting the Oct. 23 Alert, as well as a similar electrical fire in October 2006 that also led to an Alert, the second lowest level of nuclear emergency. Both incidents occurred at the Unit 2 reactor.

The team consists of a senior project engineer from the NRC's Region IV office in Arlington, Texas, and one of the resident inspectors permanently assigned to the site. They will evaluate the licensee's response to both events, the cause of the problems and corrective actions. Although the October 2006 fire was reviewed by NRC, the team will determine whether common causes exist with the Oct. 23 fire.

The inspection will begin tomorrow and take several days. The team will write a report about 30-45 days after completion of the inspection. The report will be available on the agency's online document library at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html>.

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