



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC TO CONDUCT SPECIAL INSPECTION AT COMANCHE PEAK NUCLEAR PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will conduct a special inspection to evaluate problems related to an emergency diesel generator at the Comanche Peak nuclear plant. The plant, located near Glen Rose, Texas, is operated by Luminant.

NRC is taking this action following the failure of an emergency diesel generator to activate during testing on Nov 21. NRC requires the emergency diesel generators be tested monthly to ensure they are capable of performing their safety function. The generators produce electricity for safety systems and components in the event of a loss of offsite power during an emergency.

Workers painted in the room housing the diesel generator about one week after its last successful test on Oct. 24. A preliminary review by Luminant suggests the painting may have contributed to the Nov. 21 failure.

“Luminant has taken action to ensure the emergency diesel generators will work,” said Region IV Administrator Elmo E. Collins. “But we felt it appropriate to take a deeper look at this issue through a special inspection.”

The special inspection will evaluate the adequacy of the licensee’s response to the situation, the root cause of the problem, corrective actions, and determine if there are generic implications for other nuclear power plants.

The NRC’s special inspection team, consisting of two inspectors, will begin its review today.

The team will spend several days on site and prepare a written report that will be issued 30 – 45 days after the inspection is completed. The report will be publicly available on the agency’s web site and through its Electronic Reading Room at: <http://www.nrc.gov> as an Agencywide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS) document. Help in using ADAMS is available through the NRC Public Document Room by calling 1-800-397-4209.

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