



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC CITES FORT CALHOUN NUCLEAR PLANT FOR INSPECTION FINDING OF LOW TO MODERATE SAFETY SIGNIFICANCE

The Fort Calhoun nuclear power plant will receive additional oversight from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission because of problems associated with the reactor protection system at the plant. Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) operates the plant, located 19 miles north of Omaha.

During a scheduled test on June 14, 2010, one of four electrical contacts failed in a system used to “trip” or automatically shut down the reactor. The condition appears to have existed for 63 days before it was discovered. The failure did not pose a danger to public health or safety, because other means existed to perform that safety function if necessary. OPPD has replaced the defective electrical component.

The NRC evaluates performance at nuclear power plants with a color coded process which classifies regulatory findings as either green, white, yellow or red, in order of increasing safety significance. The NRC preliminarily determined that the violation was “yellow,” meaning it has substantial safety significance.

NRC staff held a regulatory conference with OPPD officials on June 2, during which licensee representatives discussed the inspection finding. After consideration of information presented at the conference, the NRC staff has characterized the inspection as “white,” meaning it has low to moderate safety significance. The NRC will conduct a supplemental inspection at a future date to evaluate the licensee’s corrective actions.

The NRC inspection report is available through the agency’s electronic reading room at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> and [ML111260664](http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/docId/ML111260664). Help in accessing these documents is available from the NRC Public Document Room staff by calling 1-800-397-4209.

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