



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC MONITORS SECURITY EVENT AT WATTS BAR NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission Region II staff is monitoring the Watts Bar nuclear power plant as a result of a security incident just before 2 a.m. The NRC has staffed its incident response center in the Region II office in Atlanta and is monitoring the events along with the resident inspector who has responded to the site.

The Tennessee Valley Authority, which operates the Watts Bar plant, notified the NRC that a security officer patrolling on TVA property near the Tennessee River exchanged gunfire with an individual. This location is outside the plant's protected area. The officer was not injured and local law enforcement is assisting in the response to the incident. The incident occurred more than a quarter mile from the plant's protected area and the plant remains secure.

As a result of the incident, the Watts Bar plant staff declared an unusual event, the lowest of the NRC's four emergency classifications.

The Watts Bar plant is located near Spring City, Tenn., about 60 miles southwest of Knoxville. Watts Bar Unit 1 is at 100 percent power and Unit 2 is under construction.

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