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NRC Monitoring ALERT at Quad Cities Nuclear Power Plant

The Quad Cities nuclear power plant, a commercial nuclear facility licensed by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, declared an Alert for Unit 2 at 1:40 p.m. CDT. The two-unit plant, with Mark 1 boiling water reactors, is operated by Exelon Generation Co. and is located in Cordova, Ill., roughly 20 miles northeast of Moline.

The operators declared an Alert for Unit 2 due to smoke in the turbine building with indications of damage to safety related electrical equipment. The plant's fire brigade responded to the scene, and the plant called the local fire department and two ambulances to the site as a precaution. There were no reports of injuries.

Unit 2 was safely shut down. There have been no abnormal releases of radioactive material as a result of this event. Unit 1 continues to operate at full power.

The NRC mobilized its Incident Response Center in Region III located in Lisle, Ill., and is monitoring the events. The NRC resident inspectors at the site are closely following the plant's actions from the control room.

An Alert is the second lowest of four NRC emergency classifications used to declare an event which may involve an actual or potential substantial degradation of the level of safety of the plant.

The NRC's primary concern right now is to make sure the public is protected and that the plant operator is taking swift and appropriate action to continue to maintain plant safety. Once the situation is resolved, the NRC will fully inspect the cause of and contributing factors to the event.