

No: II-15-004

February 23, 2015

CONTACT: Roger Hannah 404-997-4417
Joey Ledford 404-997-4416

NRC Begins Special Inspection at Summer Nuclear Plant Unit 2 Construction Site

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission began a special inspection today of inadvertent damage to the containment vessel during construction at Unit 2 of the Summer nuclear plant.

The Summer site, operated by SCANA, has one unit in operation and two others currently under construction and is located near Jenkinsville, S.C., about 25 miles northwest of Columbia.

During the week of Feb. 9, Chicago Bridge & Iron workers cut some safety-related rebar and damaged the containment vessel bottom head while drilling into concrete. CB&I reported the damage to SCANA on Feb. 16 and the company reported the event to the NRC.

“While the actual damage appears to have been minor, we want to make sure we completely understand its potential impact and the apparent breakdown in controls that might have prevented it,” said NRC Region II Administrator Victor McCree. “We are also concerned about the delay in CB&I reporting the issue.”

The three-member NRC inspection team will review the events and both the CB&I and SCANA assessments as well as develop its own independent assessment. The inspectors will also evaluate any potential effects on containment vessel integrity, any similar activities and corrective actions.

The NRC inspectors will spend about a week on site and an inspection report documenting the team’s findings will be publicly available within 45 days of the end of the inspection.