

No: III-16-002

February 29, 2016

CONTACT: Viktoria Mitlyng 630-829-9662
Prema Chandrathil 630-829-9663

NRC Begins Special Inspection at Perry Nuclear Plant

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has launched a Special Inspection into two recent events, neither of which affected public health or safety, at the Perry Nuclear Power Plant. The plant is operated by FirstEnergy Operating Co., and is located in Perry, Ohio, about 35 miles northeast of Cleveland.

On February 8, operators manually shut down the reactor when they observed an increase of the temperature in the suppression pool. The suppression pool is designed to condense steam and is also a water source for emergency cooling systems. While the reactor was shutdown, on February 11, there was a temporary loss of power to certain plant cooling equipment. Operators were able to use a redundant system and restore power to the cooling systems.

“Even though the two events are not related we have questions related to the response of the equipment and operator actions. Our team of specialists in reactor operations and electrical equipment will review the technical details to better understand what happened,” said NRC Region III Administrator Cynthia D. Pederson.

The four-member inspection team began work on Monday and will spend time both on and off site conducting their reviews. After the inspection, a report documenting the team’s findings will be made publicly available.