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NRC Begins Special Inspection at Waterford 3 Nuclear Power Plant

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has begun a special inspection at the Waterford 3 nuclear power plant to review events that led to and occurred following an unplanned shutdown on July 17. The plant, operated by Entergy Operations, is located near Killona, La.

The plant was operating at full power during a rain and lightning storm when operators decided to shut it down as a precautionary measure. All safety systems responded as expected and the reactor was safely shut down. However, the NRC wants to better understand why some equipment failures occurred.

The two-member NRC team will spend about a week on site developing a chronology of the event, evaluating the licensee's cause analysis and the adequacy of corrective actions. An inspection report documenting the team's findings will be publicly available within 45 days of the end of the inspection.