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NRC FOLLOWING UP ON UNUSUAL EVENT AT INDIAN POINT 3

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission was closely monitoring an Unusual Event at the Indian Point 3 nuclear power plant earlier today. An Unusual Event, the lowest of four levels of emergency classification, was declared at the Buchanan, N.Y., facility at 11:43 a.m. following a transformer failure and fire. Entergy, which operates the plant, exited the Unusual Event at 12:47 p.m.

The fire was extinguished by the transformer's deluge system and the plant's fire brigade responded. There was no radiation release associated with the event and no impact on public health and safety. The reactor automatically shut down and is stable.

NRC Region I Administrator Samuel J. Collins said, "Our on-site resident inspector staff was on the site at the time of the event and closely followed the company's response to ensure that all appropriate actions were taken."

In addition to the Resident Inspectors, the Incident Response Center in the agency's Region I Office in King of Prussia, Pa., was activated to track developments and determine if plant operators were responding appropriately. The incident was monitored from the NRC's Emergency Operations Center in Rockville, Md., as well.

The transformer that failed carries electricity from the main generator to the electrical grid.

This is the fourth unplanned shutdown of Unit 3 since July. This will cause the NRC to conduct additional inspections at the unit.

Unit 2 was unaffected by today's events and remains at 100 percent power.

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