



NRC NEWS

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NRC, NEXTERA ENERGY TO DISCUSS INSPECTION FINDING AT SEABROOK NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff and representatives of NextEra Energy will meet on Wednesday, Sept. 30 to discuss an NRC inspection finding preliminarily classified as “white” (low to moderate safety significance) at the Seabrook nuclear power plant. The finding involves the operability of one of the emergency diesel generators for the plant, which is located in Seabrook, N.H., and operated by NextEra.

The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. at the NRC Region I Office at 475 Allendale Road in King of Prussia, Pa. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the inspection finding, including the causes and safety significance of the issue; to provide NextEra with an opportunity to raise any technical concerns it may have with respect to the NRC inspection report; and to enable the company to outline its proposed corrective actions.

There will be an opportunity for members of the public to offer comments or ask questions of NRC staff prior to the session’s adjournment.

On Feb. 25, the emergency diesel generator in question did not pass a routine operating test because of a cooling system leak. Emergency diesel generators provide back-up power for the plant’s safety systems in the event of a loss of off-site power. The leak occurred in a cooling system gasketed joint secured by bolts. NextEra personnel repaired the joint, successfully retested the generator and restored it to service on March 2. Further investigation by NextEra personnel determined the gasket in the leaking joint was damaged and the bolts had loosened.

In an inspection report issued on Aug. 28, the NRC staff determined that inadequate design controls by NextEra resulted in changes to the cooling system joint/gasket design and the subsequent cooling leak. Based on that information, the NRC staff made a preliminary significance determination that the inspection finding had low to moderate safety significance because the emergency diesel generator with the leak may not have operated as long as required. However, the overall risk was limited due to the availability of other back-up power sources, including another emergency diesel generator.

As per the NRC process, NextEra was offered an opportunity to take part in a Regulatory Conference, and the company opted for such a meeting. No decision on the final significance determination or enforcement action will be made at the conclusion of the meeting. NRC officials will review information presented by the company and reach a decision on appropriate regulatory action at a later date.

The inspection report is available on NRC web site at www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html. The ML Number is ML092400410. The ML number for the meeting notice is ML092600714.

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