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NRC Begins Special Inspection at Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has launched a special inspection at the Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant to investigate the circumstances surrounding multiple diesel generator failures.

The NRC determined a special inspection is necessary to evaluate the reliability of diesel generators after they failed four times in two years. Emergency diesel generators are important because they provide backup power to safety equipment when power from the electrical grid is not available.

Following each emergency diesel generator failure, NRC inspectors verified that the plant performed prompt repairs. D.C. Cook continues to operate safely. The three-person special inspection team will identify the failure timelines; review the plant's troubleshooting and corrective actions; assess maintenance practices; and evaluate the plant's ability to effectively identify and resolve issues of concern. The team has expertise in electrical and mechanical engineering and plant systems.

Upon completion of the special inspection, NRC inspectors will document their findings in a publicly available inspection report, which will be distributed electronically to listsery subscribers and available on the NRC website.

The plant, located in Bridgman, Michigan, is operated by Indiana Michigan Power.