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NRC SENDS AUGMENTED INSPECTION TEAM TO REVIEW EQUIPMENT DAMAGE AT FLORIDA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is sending an Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) to review equipment damage at Unit 3 of the Turkey Point nuclear power plant. The damage was reported by Florida Power & Light Company, which operates the plant near Florida City, about 30 miles southeast of Miami. The AIT inspection will include an evaluation of the cause of the equipment damage, including the possibility that it was damaged intentionally.

An AIT is formed to review the circumstances surrounding more significant issues at NRC-licensed facilities. The NRC inspection team includes specialists from the agency's Region II office in Atlanta. The team is expected to spend about one week at the site before returning to the regional office where the information they have gathered will be analyzed and evaluated.

"Our inspection team will review the company's own investigation as well as independently assess the extent of the equipment issues and the company's response," said NRC Region II Administrator William Travers.

Travers said that because Unit 3 was shut down and the plant's procedures led to the discovery of the damage early in the process of starting up, the actual safety significance was low.

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