



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS -- REGION I

475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406

No. I-03-002

CONTACT: Diane Screnci, (610) 337-5330
Neil A. Sheehan, (610) 337-5331

January 14, 2003

E-mail: opa1@nrc.gov

NRC SPECIAL INSPECTION TEAM BEGINS WORK AT PEACH BOTTOM

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has sent a special inspection team to follow-up on an automatic reactor shutdown last month at Peach Bottom Unit 2. Members of the team began work yesterday (1/13). The plant, operated by Exelon Generation Company, is located in Delta, Pa.

On December 21, Peach Bottom Unit 2 shut down automatically from 100 percent power after the main steam isolation valves closed. In addition to the failure which led to the closure of the valves, several other equipment problems occurred. The plant was safely shut down. There was no danger to the public and no radiation was released.

(The main steam system directs steam from the reactor vessel to the main turbine. The main steam isolation valves ((MSIVs)) are an engineered safety feature designed to shut off steam flow, if necessary. If the MSIVs close, the reactor shuts down automatically.)

The purpose of the inspection is to independently evaluate equipment and human performance and to assess Exelon's root cause evaluation and corrective actions.

The four-member team will document its findings in an inspection report that will be issued within 45 days of the close of the inspection.

###