

DIABLO CANYON

NRC dings OIG report on Unit 2 feedwater system oversight

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission turned the tables a bit on its inspector general’s office early in May with its response to a March 25 OIG event inquiry that criticized an NRC inspection at Diablo Canyon, performed after a July 2020 auxiliary feedwater (AFW) system failure at the California plant’s Unit 2 reactor.

The response highlights a number of what the agency terms “factual errors” and takes issue with several portions of the OIG report.

- Findings outlined in the NRC response include:
 - The leak in the AFW system did not cause the plant to shut down as stated by the OIG, nor did it compromise plant safety. The Diablo Canyon plant has operated safely and continues to do so.
 - The staff found no evidence that the AFW

pipe corrosion hidden under metal-jacketed insulation should have been identified by NRC inspectors before the leak occurred. The resident inspectors then assigned to Diablo Canyon followed appropriate guidance during their inspection of the system, and regional and headquarters management appropriately determined that the leak had very low safety significance. Corrosion under insulation, which caused this leak, is known to the industry and the NRC.

- The agency remains confident in the effectiveness of its inspection program, which is one of many ways in which it verifies nuclear power plant safety. Other methods include Reactor Oversight Program performance indicators,

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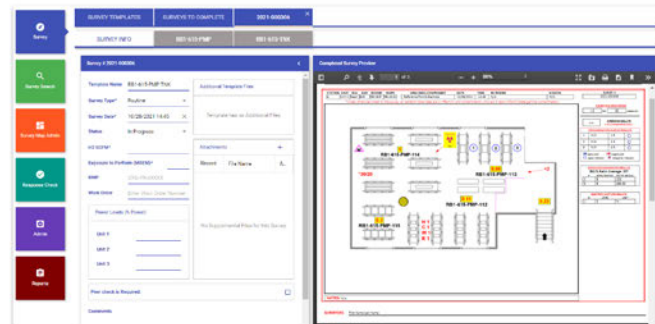
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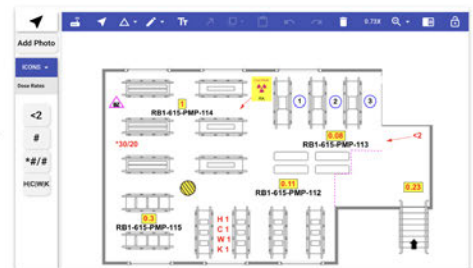
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