

US nuclear reactor turned off after radiation leak

February 2 2012



View of the San Onofre Nuclear Power Plant in north San Diego County in 2011. A reactor at the San Onofre nuclear power plant near San Diego has been shut down after a radiation leak which was not big enough to cause public harm, the US atomic safety agency said Wednesday.

A reactor at the San Onofre nuclear power plant near San Diego has been shut down after a radiation leak which was not big enough to cause public harm, the US atomic safety agency said Wednesday.

Radioactive gas escaped from a pipe in a building located next to the reactor on Tuesday evening, the US [Nuclear Regulatory Commission](#) (NRC) said.

Since the equipment-housing building into which the gas leaked is not airtight, it is possible a "very, very low level," of radioactive material

escaped into the environment, said NRC spokesman Victor Dricks.

Those traces would be "barely measurable against (existing) background levels," and would pose no danger to the public, he added.

The operator of the California [nuclear plant](#), Southern California Edison Co. (SCE), said it was investigating the exact cause of the incident and that the reactor would not be used for several days.

At the time of the incident the other reactor at the California site was shut down for essential maintenance, but SCE said it had sufficient supplies to service its customers.

San Onofre produces enough energy to power 1.4 million homes, according to SCE.

(c) 2012 AFP

Citation: US nuclear reactor turned off after radiation leak (2012, February 2) retrieved 8 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2012-02-nuclear-reactor-leak.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--