

Comanche Peak Plant In Texas Is Undergoing Major NRC Inspection
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DALLAS -- The Nuclear Regulatory Commission began a major inspection of the Comanche Peak nuclear power plant because of the large number of unresolved allegations of poor workmanship at the uncompleted plant, principally owned by Texas Utilities Electric Co.

The NRC said 45 inspectors are investigating the 404 complaints that center on safety conditions at the plant, located 75 miles southeast of Dallas near Glen Rose. The commission said the high number of complaints warranted the investigation, which is expected to take 2 1/2 months to complete and cost \$1 million.

The inspection will concentrate on the plant's safety, construction, wiring and quality control. The NRC said 181 of the complaints raise questions on the plant's record-keeping process, which includes quality control and safety records.

A spokesman for Texas Utilities said the utility was told a month ago that the inspection would occur. The spokesman said the inspection is the "largest" at Comanche Peak since construction began 9 1/2 years ago. The utility added that it expects to meet its Oct. 1 deadline to begin low-power testing of the plant.

Separately, Texas Utilities said it received a favorable ruling from the federal Atomic Safety and Licensing Board on its welding procedures. A consumer group had called the welding at the plant inadequate, but the utility said the board found that the group "failed to substantiate its concern."

In addition to Texas Utilities, other interests in the plant are owned by Texas Municipal Power Agency, Brazos Electric Power Cooperative Inc. and Tex-La Electric Cooperative of Texas Inc. Texas Utilities Generating Co., a division of Texas Utilities, serves as agent in construction and operation of the plant.