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NRC Publishes Annual Report to Congress on Nuclear Security Inspections

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has made public an unclassified version of its annual report to Congress on the results of the agency's security inspection activities in 2022.

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The report covers the NRC's security inspection program, including force-on-force exercises, for commercial nuclear power reactors and "Category I" fuel cycle facilities. These facilities manufacture fuel for government reactors and process uranium for commercial reactors. The report keeps Congress and the public informed of the NRC's efforts to oversee the protection of the nation's civilian nuclear power infrastructure and strategic special nuclear material.

The NRC conducted 193 security inspections at commercial nuclear power plants and Category I fuel cycle facilities last year. The inspections included 19 full triennial force-on-force inspections at nuclear power plants and one at a Category I fuel cycle facility. Force-on-force inspections involve simulated attacks to test the effectiveness of a licensee's physical protection program. The publicly available inspection results are discussed in the report.

When NRC inspectors make a security finding, they ensure the licensee corrects the situation in a timely manner. Details of security findings are considered sensitive and not released to the public.