

September 22, 2003

**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-03-040**

This preliminary notification constitutes **EARLY** notice of events of **POSSIBLE** safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the Region III staff on this date.

**Facility**

Palisades Nuclear Generating Station  
Nuclear Management Company  
Covert, MI  
Docket: 50-255  
License: DPR-20

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

☐ Notification of Unusual Event  
☐ Alert  
☐ Site Area Emergency  
☐ General Emergency  
☒ Not Applicable

**SUBJECT: FIRE ADJACENT TO PALISADES NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION**

**DESCRIPTION:**

On September 20, 2003, a fire destroyed about 10 acres of beachfront dune vegetation in the VanBuren State Park adjacent to the northern property line of the Palisades Nuclear Generating Station.

Ten fire departments responded to the fire, which started at about 4:30 p.m. EDT and was completely extinguished shortly after 8:00 p.m. The fire consisted of dune grass, brush and small trees. Two fire departments utilized the training building parking lot at the Palisades Nuclear Generating Station as a staging area to gain access to the state park to fight the fire.

The fire never threatened plant operations. Fire fighting assistance from the Palisades Nuclear Generating Station's Fire Brigade was not required.

The cause of the fire has not been determined, although dry conditions were potentially a contributing factor.

There was some news media interest in the event.

The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only and no further action by the staff is anticipated.

Region III received initial notification of this occurrence by telephone from the Palisades Main Control Room at about 5 p.m. EDT on September 20, 2003.

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