

## Riley (OCA), Timothy

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**From:** VanKuiken, Matt (Stabenow) [Matt\_VanKuiken@stabenow.senate.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2011 1:26 PM  
**To:** Riley (OCA), Timothy  
**Subject:** RE: Special inspection at Palisades Nuclear Power Plant  
**Attachments:** image001.gif

Sounds good!

Matt

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**From:** Riley (OCA), Timothy [mailto:Timothy.RileyOCA@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2011 12:07 PM  
**To:** VanKuiken, Matt (Stabenow)  
**Subject:** RE: Special inspection at Palisades Nuclear Power Plant

Anytime in the afternoon would work well for me. Let's set something for 3pm, but I can flex as needed.  
Talk to you soon,  
Tim

Timothy Riley  
Congressional Affairs Officer  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Office of Congressional Affairs  
Phone: 301-415-8492  
Blackberry: (b)(6)

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**From:** VanKuiken, Matt (Stabenow) [mailto:Matt\_VanKuiken@stabenow.senate.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2011 12:05 PM  
**To:** Riley (OCA), Timothy  
**Subject:** RE: Special inspection at Palisades Nuclear Power Plant

Thanks Tim!

Tuesday next week would work great. Really appreciate the offer. What times will you be up on the hill? I'm pretty flexible because of recess.

Matt

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**From:** Riley (OCA), Timothy [mailto:Timothy.RileyOCA@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2011 11:40 AM  
**To:** VanKuiken, Matt (Stabenow)  
**Subject:** RE: Special inspection at Palisades Nuclear Power Plant

Information in this record was deleted in  
accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.  
Exemptions to  
FOIA/PA 2012-0165

Matt,

I'm sending the links to some media coverage below, in case that is of interest. More directly, the Special Inspection Team will take about 45 days to produce findings; we will notify your office when this inspection findings are complete. The team has been working at the site this week and will now return to the regional headquarters to assess and prepare their findings.

If you have time this afternoon or on Tuesday, I would be happy to come to your office for a brief courtesy visit to discuss this and any other concerns.

Thanks,  
Tim

**NRC Conducting Special Inspection At Palisades Plant After Pump Fails.** The AP (8/18) reports that an NRC "inspection is taking place at Palisades Nuclear Plant in southwestern Michigan after a water pump component failed last week." The agency said the plant is "operating safely," and Entergy spokesman Mark Savage said "the team arrived Tuesday and is expected to be on site for the week. Savage says the NRC will determine whether proper procedures were followed or whether an additional inspection is needed."

The Kalamazoo (MI) Gazette (8/17, Klug) reported the NRC's "special inspection" stems from the August 9 "failure of a coupling that holds pipes together. ... 'We need to look at what exactly failed,' said NRC spokeswoman Prema Chandrathil." According to Chandrathil, the pipes connected by the faulty coupling "are solid" and "help circulate the water to cool safety related equipment that cools the nuclear reactor." Chandrathil said the unusual special investigation "is not normally done," but said the agency had "questions surrounding the incident."

On its website, WWMT-TV Battle Creek, Michigan (8/15) reported the NRC said the special inspection "team is expected to be at the plant for the rest of the week. Employees will determine whether proper procedures were followed and whether an additional inspection is needed."

WOOD-TV Grand Rapids, Michigan (8/17, 5:34 p.m., EDT) broadcast, "Federal officials are inspecting Palisades Nuclear Plant, after a water pump component failed." The pump coupling "was replaced and is back in use. A similar incident happened in 2009." The NRC says the plant "is operating safely. The team arrived yesterday and is expected to be there for a week. It will determine whether proper procedures were followed or whether another inspection is needed." WWMT-TV Grand Rapids, Michigan (8/17, 5:11 p.m., EDT) and WWTW-TV Traverse City, Michigan (8/17, 5:08 p.m., EDT) also covered this story.

**Beyond Nuclear Spokesman Blasts Plant's Safety.** On its website, WXMI-TV Grand Rapids, Michigan (8/17, Webber) reported, "The water pump is needed to operate safety equipment essential for cooling the nuclear fuel in the atomic reactor core. The incident is one of many reported issues dating back to the 1960s." WXMI-TV added that Kevin Kamps of Beyond Nuclear said the "current safety-related breakdown is but the latest of countless episodes," and added that "Palisades has been a lemon from the very beginning, and the catastrophic radioactivity risks have only grown worse as the atomic reactor has aged over the past 44 years."

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**From:** VanKuiken, Matt (Stabenow) [mailto:Matt\_VanKuiken@stabenow.senate.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2011 11:28 AM  
**To:** Riley (OCA), Timothy; Stoepker, Marta (Stabenow)  
**Subject:** RE: Special inspection at Palisades Nuclear Power Plant

Timothy,

Thanks for the email and heads up. I've been away on vacation and wasn't able to respond.

Do you have any update since you sent this email? Do you have an estimated timeline for the special inspection?

Thanks again,

Matt

Matt VanKuiken  
Legislative Assistant  
Office of Senator Debbie Stabenow

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**From:** Riley (OCA), Timothy [mailto:Timothy.RileyOCA@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 15, 2011 4:00 PM  
**To:** VanKuiken, Matt (Stabenow); Stoeper, Marta (Stabenow)  
**Subject:** NRC: Special inspection at Palisades Nuclear Power Plant

Good afternoon,

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has started a Special Inspection to review the circumstances surrounding the failure of a service water pump component at the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant. The plant has three service water pumps and at least one is required to be operable in case of an emergency (service water pumps help cool safety-related equipment). Only one pump failed at this time, but this incident is sufficiently similar to a pump failure from 2009 that a team of experts has been sent to evaluate a potentially repetitive issue.

Please see the attached press release for more information and contact me with any questions.

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