

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION – REGION III

July 11, 2012

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE – PNO-III-12-004A

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. Some of the information may not yet be fully verified or evaluated by the Region III staff.

Facility

Palisades Nuclear Plant
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
Covert, Michigan
Docket: 05000255
License: DPR-20

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: UPDATE - PALISADES SHUTDOWN DUE TO SAFETY INJECTION
REFUELING WATER STORAGE TANK LEAKAGE

This Preliminary Notification updates information discussed in PNO-III-12-004, in which the NRC discussed the Palisades plant shut down that occurred on June 12, 2012. The shutdown occurred due to the safety injection refueling water storage tank (SIRWT) leakage exceeding the limit of 31 gallons per day established for the tank (31.4 gallons per day).

The NRC dispatched a region-based inspector to supplement the resident inspectors in the review of the licensee's repair of the leak. Entergy's investigation of the event concluded that a through wall crack on one of the SIRWT nozzles was the apparent cause of the leak. The licensee replaced the nozzle and has refilled the tank. Additionally, the licensee did extensive inspections and repairs to identify and correct other potential flaws. The NRC resident inspectors and a region-based inspector reviewed and inspected the work performed by the licensee. NRC regional and headquarters experts also conducted a detailed review of the technical evaluations that were performed to ensure the tank's structural integrity met the applicable codes and standards.

Currently, there is a small leak coming from the area surrounding the SIRWT that has been quantified at approximately 0.2 gallons per day. It is possible that this leakage is from the tank or from moisture surrounding the outside of the tank as a consequence of a previous leak and/or maintenance activities. The NRC has reviewed the licensee's evaluation of the leak and determined that due to its size the leak does not pose a risk to the safe operation of the plant. If the leakage increases significantly, the licensee has established criteria to shut down the plant. The NRC resident inspectors will continue to monitor the leakage from the tank and the licensee actions in response to the leakage. The leakage is not being released to the environment.

On July 10, 2012, the Palisades plant resumed operation after the repairs to the SIRWT were completed. The reactor was made critical at 6:48 p.m. (EDT) on July 10, 2012, and the main generator was synchronized to the grid at 2:36 a.m. (EDT) on July 11, 2012.

The State of Michigan has been notified.

The meeting summaries for the NRC discussions with the licensee regarding the leak will be available through ADAMS.

The information in this preliminary notification is current as of 12:00 p.m. EDT on July 11, 2012.

This information has been reviewed with plant management.

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

ADAMS Accession Number: ML12193A551

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