



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs Region III

2443 Warrenville Road

Lisle IL 60532

Site: www.nrc.gov

Blog: <http://public-blog.nrc-gateway.gov>

No. III-12-030

Contact: Viktoria Mitlyng (630) 829-9662
Prema Chandrathil (630) 829-9663

July 17, 2012

E-Mail: OPA3@nrc.gov

NRC ISSUES CONFIRMATORY ACTION LETTER TO PALISADES NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued a Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) documenting actions that the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant has agreed to take in order to provide assurance that an apparent leak in the safety injection refueling water storage tank and a potential leak in the control room do not affect public health and safety. The plant is owned by Entergy Nuclear Operations and is located in Covert, Mich., approximately 40 miles west of Kalamazoo.

“After extensive reviews by our inspectors we concluded that the tank and the control room are safe for plant operations but that additional commitments are needed to provide the necessary assurance that leaks will not affect equipment to safely operate or safely shutdown,” said NRC Region III Administrator Charles Casto. “We will schedule a public meeting shortly to discuss this issue and the NRC’s plans to monitor the plant’s actions moving forward.”

Some of the Entergy commitments to the NRC include:

- Measure and trend daily leakage from the tank.
- Declare the tank inoperable if the leakage reaches 38 gallons per day.
- If the tank is actively leaking, take actions to repair the tank in accordance with applicable safety standards.
- Continue to inspect the concrete support structure above the control room, control room hallway and control room ceiling.
- Correct the condition related to water seepage through the concrete support structure into the control room prior to the restart from the 2013 refueling outage.

The NRC will review and evaluate the plant’s actions in response to the CAL in order to make sure they are thorough and complete. Failure to meet the commitments in the CAL may result in additional regulatory action if the utility does not provide reasonable assurance that the NRC can rely on Entergy to meet the NRC’s requirements and protect public health and safety.

On June 12 the plant shut down the reactor due to a leak in the tank. The NRC immediately dispatched an inspector to supplement the resident inspectors in the review of the plant's work to repair the leak. The leak was repaired. There is a small amount of seepage coming from the area surrounding the tank. It is possible that this leakage is from moisture outside the tank or from the tank itself. The NRC has reviewed the plant's evaluation and determined that due to its size, the leak does not pose a risk to the continued safe operation of the plant. The water is being contained and is not being released to the environment. The tank contains a minimum of 250,000 gallons of borated water, used for activities during refueling outages and supplies the water for the emergency core cooling systems and containment spray system during emergencies.

Copies of the CAL will be posted on the [Agencywide Documents Access and Management System](#) (ADAMS) at the NRC website.

###

News releases are available through a free *listserv* subscription at the following Web address: <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/listserver.html>. The NRC homepage at www.nrc.gov also offers a SUBSCRIBE link. E-mail notifications are sent to subscribers when news releases are posted to NRC's website.