

May 11, 2016
EN 16-009

OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT
NOTIFICATION OF SIGNIFICANT ENFORCEMENT ACTION

Licensee: Palisades Nuclear Plant
Covert, MI
Docket No.: 50-255

EA-15-039

Subject: ISSUANCE OF CONFIRMATORY ORDER

This is to inform the Commission that a publicly available Confirmatory Order (Order) will be issued on or about May 16, 2016, to Palisades Nuclear Plant (Palisades). This Order will confirm commitments reached as part of an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) settlement agreement addressing apparent violations identified through an investigation at Palisades.

Apparent violations were identified during an investigation conducted by the NRC's Office of Investigations (OI) to determine whether personnel deliberately failed to provide complete and accurate information to the NRC associated with a Safety Injection Refueling Water Tank (SIRWT) leak. The apparent violations involved: (1) the willful failure, on the part of four individuals, to enter information concerning a leak in the SIRWT into the corrective action program as required by procedure; (2) the failure to perform adequate operability determinations of conditions associated with the SIRWT leak as required by 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, Criterion V; and (3) the failure to perform either a missed surveillance test within 24 hours or a risk evaluation to complete the surveillance at a later time as required by Technical Specifications, Surveillance Requirement 3.0.3.

In a letter dated February 22, 2016, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) provided Palisades the results of the investigation, and offered the opportunity to attend a Predecisional Enforcement Conference, or to request ADR.

In response to this letter, Palisades requested ADR. An ADR mediation session was held on March 25, 2016, and a preliminary settlement agreement was reached. The settlement actions include, but are not limited to: (1) ensuring site personnel understand lessons learned from this matter, (2) sharing lessons learned from this matter with other reactor licensees, (3) reviewing the applicable procedures in light of the lessons learned from events associated with leakage of the SIRWT and revise these procedures as appropriate, and (4) modification to its current program of public outreach at Palisades. It should also be noted that the NRC found that the four Palisades personnel acted with careless disregard and will receive close-out letters.

It should be noted that Palisades has been specifically informed of, and agrees to, this enforcement action. The schedule of issuance and notification is:

Mailing of Notice
Telephone Notification of Palisades

May 16, 2016
May 16, 2016

The state of Michigan will be notified.

CONTACTS: Gerry Gulla, OE/EB
(301) 415-2872

Nick Hilton, OE/EB
(301) 415-2741

DISTRIBUTION: EN-16-009, May 11, 2016

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NAME	GGulla	NHilton
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