



Consumers
Power
Company

COPY

General Offices: 212 West Michigan Avenue, Jackson, Michigan 49201 • Area Code 517 788-0550

September 9, 1974



Directorate of Licensing
US Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, DC 20545

Re: Docket 50-255
License DPR-20
Palisades Plant
AO-17-74

Gentlemen:

Attached is the report for Abnormal Occurrence 17-74. This report covers the cracking of a letdown line vent nipple. We have sent this vent to our laboratory for examination and shall inform you of our findings.

Yours very truly,

Ralph B. Sewell (Signed)

WGF/mel

Ralph B. Sewell
Nuclear Licensing Administrator

CC: JGKeppler, USAEC

*50-255
inquiry*

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ABNORMAL OCCURRENCE REPORT
Palisades Plant

1. Report Number: AO-17-74, Docket 50-255.
2. a. Report Date: September 9, 1974.
b. Occurrence Date: August 28, 1974.
3. Facility: Palisades Plant, Consumers Power Company, Covert, Michigan.
4. Identification of Occurrence: Cracking of a letdown line vent nipple.
5. Conditions Prior to Occurrence: The plant was at 400°F and in the process of cooling down.
6. Description of Occurrence: At about 2030, it was observed that all charging pumps were running and letdown flow indicated zero. Inspection of the charging pump liner disclosed that water was blowing from a 3/4-inch vent nipple. This nipple had failed by cracking over about 75% of its circumference, just above the weld to the letdown line. The letdown line was isolated immediately and no further problem resulted.
7. Designation of Cause: The apparent cause was material failure and a possible contributing cause was design inadequacy. The failed pipe has been sent to our laboratory for examination. The results of this examination will be forwarded when they become available.
8. Analysis of Occurrence: The plant was in the process of normal letdown cooling when the pipe broke. Its rupture did not damage any equipment or injure any personnel. Because of the location of the break, any release of radiation from the break was held within the containment.
9. Corrective Action: The vent was in a nonused portion of the letdown line and, therefore, could be removed completely. The remaining portion of the vent nipple was removed and a certified plug was welded into its position plugging the line. Inspection of the rest of the line disclosed no other similar piping configurations which could develop a similar problem.
10. Failure Data: No previous history recorded on the letdown system.