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June 30, 1975

Division of Reactor Licensing  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

Re: Docket 50-255  
License DPR-20  
Palisades Plant  
AO-75-13

Gentlemen:

Attached is Abnormal Occurrence Report AO-75-13 which covers the (release of heated water at a rate which exceeded the Technical Specifications limits.) There were no safety implications associated with this occurrence.

Yours very truly,

Ralph B. Sewell (Signed)

DAB/mel

Ralph B. Sewell  
Nuclear Licensing Administrator

CC: JGKeppler, USNRC

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ABNORMAL OCCURRENCE REPORT  
Palisades Plant

1. Report Number: AO-75-13, Docket 50-255.
2. a. Report Date: June 30, 1975.  
b. Occurrence Date: June 19, 1975.
3. Facility: Palisades Nuclear Plant, Covert, MI.
4. Identification of Occurrence: Plant discharge water temperature (5°F increase) and heat rate (0.5 billion Btu per hour) above Technical Specifications limits.
5. Conditions Prior to Occurrence: Steady state power operation at 80%.
6. Description of Occurrence: On June 19, 1975 at about 1715 the temperature in the plant mixing basin increased from 66.5°F to about 86°F. For the next 1-1/2 hours the temperature fluctuated between 76°F and 86°F. At about 1845 the temperature went back up to 85°F and remained there until about 0545 on June 20, 1975. It reduced to 80°F until about 0800, then fluctuated slightly downward. At 0930 it was down to 70°F. The temperature of the inlet water was 65-66°F during this period.
7. Designation of Apparent Cause: Inspection of the charts and log sheets indicates that the lower basin level was being changed during the period of this occurrence. There presently are no existing procedures which define the proper method for raising and lowering tower basin levels during operation. Dilution water was being pumped into the circulating system and the flow over the weir was excessive due to the additional makeup.
8. Analysis of Occurrence: No infringement was made to the safety of the public as a result of this incident. The maximum release rate of thermal discharge was  $0.6 \times 10^9$  Btu/h which is above the Technical Specifications limit of  $0.50 \times 10^9$  Btu/h.
9. Corrective Action: Appropriate additional operating procedures will be formulated for raising and lowering cooling tower basin levels during operation. These procedures are expected to be completed by July 11, 1975.
10. Failure Data: Not applicable.