

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-06-013

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the Region III staff on this date.

Facility

Palisades Nuclear Plant
Nuclear Management Co.
Covert, MI
Docket: 50-255
License: DPR-20

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: SHUTDOWN TO INVESTIGATE CONTROL ROD WITHDRAWAL PROBLEM

DESCRIPTION:

On May 11, 2006, the plant staff determined that one control rod remained fully inserted in the reactor core during startup following a refueling outage. The condition was identified through monitoring incore power levels (neutron flux) while the reactor was at 24 percent power. Control rod position indication had showed the control rod to be in its normal, withdrawn position, but the licensee believes that the control rod may be decoupled from the control rod drive mechanism which moves the rod.

The reactor was shut down to investigate and correct the apparent failure of the control rod to be withdrawn during startup. The resident inspectors will monitor the licensee's activities.

Operators manually tripped the reactor from 8 percent power at 3:14 p.m. EDT on May 11, 2006. All systems functioned normally during the shutdown.

The State of Michigan will be informed of the shutdown. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management.

The licensee notified the NRC Operations Center of the shutdown at 5:35 p.m. EDT on May 11, 2006. This information is current as of 10 a.m. EDT on May 12, 2006.

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