

February 27, 2007

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-07-003

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.

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u>
Palisades Nuclear Plant	<input type="checkbox"/> Notification of Unusual Event
Nuclear Management Co.	<input type="checkbox"/> Alert
Covert MI	<input type="checkbox"/> Site Area Emergency
Docket: 50-255	<input type="checkbox"/> General Emergency
License: DPR-20	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable

SUBJECT: PALISADES SHUTDOWN TO REPLACE HEAT-DAMAGED CABLES

DESCRIPTION:

On February 26, 2007, the licensee shut the plant down to replace cables which had been damaged by excessive heat from an uninsulated portion of a steam generator blowdown pipe.

On February 17, 2007, an auxiliary operator identified damaged cables in an overhead raceway. After further inspection and evaluation, the licensee determined the plant shutdown was necessary to replace the cables and install insulation on the blowdown pipe.

The licensee indicated that 36 electrical cables were in the affected cable tray. The cables were associated with the component cooling water system, service water system and with non-safety-related equipment. The steam generator blowdown pipe is in constant use during plant operations to maintain steam generator chemistry. Some of the blowdown pipe is insulated, but this section had apparently never had insulation installed.

In addition to the cable replacement, the licensee is also replacing four control rod drive mechanism seals which had developed minor leakage.

The NRC resident inspectors are monitoring the licensee's investigation of the cable problem and the replacement activities. An electrical specialist from the Region III (Chicago) office has arrived on site to assist with the inspection.

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

The licensee first notified the resident inspectors of the problem on February 20. The licensee submitted an Event Report to the NRC Operations Center of the problem on February 25, and subsequently determined that a shutdown was necessary. This information is current as of 2 p.m. on February 27, 2007.

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