

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION – REGION III

November 5, 2012

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE – PNO-III-12-015

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. Some of the information may not yet be fully verified or evaluated by the Region III staff.

Facility

Palisades Nuclear Plant
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
Covert, Michigan
Docket: 05000255
License: DPR-20

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: PALISADES SHUTDOWN DUE TO LEAKAGE FROM THE MAIN STEAM SYSTEM

During an auxiliary building tour on November 4, 2012, Palisades Nuclear Plant personnel identified a small through wall steam leak on a drain valve on the secondary side of 'B' steam generator that was un-isolable. The leak was not from the system that directly cools the reactor. Because the leak was un-isolable, the 'B' steam generator had to be declared inoperable at 11:15 EST. The Technical Specifications required the plant to be shut down within 6 hours when the steam generator is declared inoperable. Palisades Nuclear Plant operators completed the shutdown at 16:21 EST, which satisfied Technical Specification requirements.

The steam leak contained very low levels of tritium at concentrations far below the regulatory limit. The steam leak condensed, remained in the auxiliary building and will be treated as radioactive liquid waste. The leak stopped as pressure was reduced in the main steam system during plant cooldown. The leak was small and did not impact any other plant equipment.

NRC inspectors responded to the site, observed portions of the plant shutdown and assessed the impact on other plant equipment from the steam leak.

The licensee is currently developing a repair plan. The plant will be placed in cold shutdown to conduct the repairs. NRC inspectors are monitoring and assessing actions taken by the licensee. The NRC has no immediate safety concerns with this issue.

The State of Michigan has been notified.

Any meeting summaries of the discussions between the NRC and licensee regarding the leak will be available through the NRC's public documents system at <http://adams.nrc.gov/wba/>.

The information in this preliminary notification is current as of 11:00 (EST) on November 5, 2012. This information has been reviewed with plant management.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML12310A505

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