

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION – REGION III

November 9, 2012

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

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest or 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: UPDATE - PALISADES SHUTDOWN DUE TO LEAKAGE FROM THE MAIN STEAM SYSTEM

This Preliminary Notification updates information discussed in PNO-III-12-015, which discussed the Palisades plant shutdown on November 4, 2012. The shutdown was required because of a small, un-isolable through-wall steam leak on a drain valve on the piping for an atmospheric dump valve on the 'B' steam generator secondary side. Because the leak was un-isolable, the 'B' steam generator had to be declared inoperable and Technical Specifications required the plant to be shut down within 6 hours.

While the plant was shut down November 4 – 7, 2012, the licensee replaced the steam piping drain valve that had the through-wall steam leak.

During this plant shutdown, the licensee also replaced a service water valve that had a pinhole, through-wall leak. NRC inspectors and the licensee had been monitoring the leak, which was identified by NRC inspectors on September 20, 2012, during a routine tour in the auxiliary building. The leak on the service water valve did not require a plant shutdown; did not interfere with the system's ability to perform its function; was not impacting other plant equipment; was not radioactive; and was not a threat to public health and safety. The service water valve pinhole, through-wall leak was previously discussed in PNO-III-12-012.

NRC inspectors monitored the repair and testing activities that were conducted for replacing the steam piping drain valve and the service water valve to verify that the repairs were adequate. The testing that was conducted after the valves were replaced confirmed that there was no leakage from either valve.

On November 7, 2012, the Palisades plant resumed operation after the repairs were completed. The reactor was made critical at 1:52 a.m. (EST) and the main generator was synchronized to the grid at 1:09 p.m. (EST).

The State of Michigan has been notified.

The information in this preliminary notification is current as of 0900 a.m. (EST) on November 9, 2012. This information has been reviewed with plant management.

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