

## PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION – REGION III

March 14, 2014

### PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE – PNO-III-14-002A

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: UPDATE - PALISADES CONTROL ROD DRIVE MECHANISM HOUSING FLAWS**

This Preliminary Notification updates information provided in PNO-III-14-002, associated with the licensee's examination of the Control Rod Drive Mechanism (CRDM) housings, consistent with commitments made by the licensee to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) following its previous outage. The CRDM housings are part of the reactor coolant system pressure boundary and are designed to prevent reactor coolant from leaking into the containment. The CRDMs are the mechanisms that withdraw and insert the control rods into the reactor and extend from the reactor head to about 14 feet upward.

As a result of these examinations, the licensee identified flaws in 17 of the 45 CRDM housings and replaced all of the CRDM housings with new housings of a different design that is more resistant to developing this type of flaw. One of the 45 CRDM housings was replaced during the previous outage and the remaining 44 housings were replaced during the current refueling outage.

Two NRC resident inspectors, assigned full time on-site to inspect and assess licensee activities, and an NRC regional inspector and subject matter expert, who was pre-staged on-site at the start of the refueling outage, observed the licensee's examination of the CRDM housings and continue to evaluate the licensee's corrective actions for the identified flaws. Additionally, NRC headquarters and regional experts conducted an independent and detailed review of the licensee's technical evaluations and destructive testing of four of the housings with identified flaws. Based upon its independent review and assessment, the NRC concluded that the CRDM housings' structural integrity was not compromised while the plant was operating.

The NRC will document its conclusions in a publicly available inspection report.

The State of Michigan has been notified.

The information in this preliminary notification is current as of 11:00 a.m. (EDT) on March 14, 2014.

This information has been reviewed with plant management.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only and no further action by the staff is anticipated.

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