

June 19, 2001

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555-0001

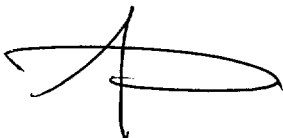
DOCKET 50-255 - LICENSE DPR-20 - PALISADES PLANT
LICENSEE EVENT REPORT 01-003, SMALL FIRE OF SUSPICIOUS ORIGIN
WITHIN THE PLANT PROTECTED AREA

Licensee Event Report (LER) 01-003 is attached. The LER describes a small fire of suspicious origin which occurred inside the Plant Protected Area. The fire was confined to a trash barrel.

This safeguards event is reportable pursuant to 10 CFR 73, Appendix G.

SUMMARY OF COMMITMENTS

This letter contains no new commitments and no revisions to existing commitments.



Douglas E. Cooper
Plant General Manager

CC Administrator, Region III, USNRC
Project Manager, NRR, USNRC
NRC Resident Inspector - Palisades

Attachment

IE22

NRC FORM 366 (1-2001)		U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION		APPROVED BY OMB NO. 3150-0104 Estimated burden per response to comply with this mandatory information collection request: 50 hours. Reported lessons learned are incorporated into the licensing process and fed back to industry. Send comments regarding burden estimate to the Records Management Branch (T-6 E6), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by internet e-mail to: bjs1@nrc.gov, and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202 (3150-0104), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. If a means used to impose information collection does not display a currently valid OMB control number, the NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, the information collection.		EXPIRES 6-30-2001		
LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER) (See reverse for required number of digits/characters for each block)								
FACILITY NAME (1) PALISADES NUCLEAR PLANT				DOCKET NUMBER (2) 05000255		PAGE (3) 1 OF 3		
TITLE (4) SMALL FIRE OF SUSPICIOUS ORIGIN WITHIN THE PLANT PROTECTED AREA								
EVENT DATE (5)			LER NUMBER (6)			REPORT DATE (7)		
MO	DAY	YEAR	YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REV NO	MO	DAY	YEAR
05	18	01	2001 - 003 - 00			06	19	2001
OPERATING MODE (9) 1			THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR §: (Check all that apply) (11)					
POWER LEVEL (10) 100			20.2201(b)		20.2203(a)(3)(ii)	50.73(a)(2)(ii)(B)		50.73(a)(2)(ix)(A)
			20.2201(d)		20.2203(a)(4)	50.73(a)(2)(iii)		50.73(a)(2)(x)
			20.2203(a)(1)		50.36(c)(1)(i)(A)	50.73(a)(2)(iv)(A)		73.71(a)(4)
			20.2203(a)(2)(i)		50.36(c)(1)(ii)(A)	50.73(a)(2)(v)(A)		73.71(a)(5)
			20.2203(a)(2)(ii)		50.36(c)(2)	50.73(a)(2)(v)(B)		X OTHER Specify in Abstract below or in NRC Form 366A
			20.2203(a)(2)(iii)		50.46(a)(3)(ii)	50.73(a)(2)(v)(C)		
			20.2203(a)(2)(iv)		50.73(a)(2)(i)(A)	50.73(a)(2)(v)(D)		
			20.2203(a)(2)(v)		50.73(a)(2)(i)(B)	50.73(a)(2)(vii)		
			20.2203(a)(2)(vi)		50.73(a)(2)(i)(C)	50.73(a)(2)(viii)(A)		
20.2203(a)(3)(i)		50.73(a)(2)(ii)(A)	50.73(a)(2)(viii)(B)					
LICENSEE CONTACT FOR THIS LER (12)								
NAME Daniel G. Malone, Regulatory Compliance Supervisor						TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code) (616) 764-2463		
COMPLETE ONE LINE FOR EACH COMPONENT FAILURE DESCRIBED IN THIS REPORT (13)								
CAUSE	SYSTEM	COMPONENT	MANUFACTURER	REPORTABLE TO EPIX	CAUSE	SYSTEM	COMPONENT	MANUFACTURER
SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT EXPECTED (14)						EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE (15)		
YES (If yes, complete EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE).					X	NO		
ABSTRACT (Limit to 1400 spaces, i.e., approximately 15 single-spaced typewritten lines) (16) At approximately 0218 hours, May 18, 2001, a security officer (contract security force) discovered a fire in a trash barrel, which was located inside a shop building within the plant protected area. The shop building is located at the north end of the plant protected area, approximately 150 yards from plant buildings housing safety related equipment. The security officer was able to extinguish the fire with a portable fire extinguisher at approximately 0222 hours. The fire was confined to the trash barrel, with most of the burning occurring in the upper one-third of the barrel. There was no damage to plant equipment or buildings and there were no personnel injuries. No safety related equipment was affected. On May 22, 2001, a Consumers Energy corporate investigator briefed plant management on the initial results of the corporate fire investigation. The corporate investigator determined that the cause of the fire was suspicious; but the investigator could not positively identify a specific individual who may have been responsible for setting the fire. At 1835 hours, May 22, 2001, plant management completed an evaluation of the results of the corporate investigation, resulting in the determination that the occurrence was reportable pursuant to 10 CFR 73, Appendix G. Associated amplifying guidance is provided by Regulatory Guide 5.62, paragraph 2.2, item 5, for reporting of safeguards events, including reporting of fires of suspicious origin. Following further review of available information, unescorted access of the security officer who discovered and extinguished the fire was revoked the evening of May 22, pending further investigation.						MONTH	DAY	YEAR

NRC FORM 366A (1-2001)		U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION			
LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)					
FACILITY NAME (1)	DOCKET (2)	LER NUMBER (6)			PAGE (3)
PALISADES NUCLEAR PLANT	05000255	YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER	2 OF 3
		2001	-- 003	-- 00	

NARRATIVE (If more space is required, use additional copies of NRC Form 366A) (17)

EVENT DESCRIPTION

At approximately 0218 hours, May 18, 2001, a security officer (contract security force) discovered a fire in a trash barrel, which was located inside a shop building within the plant protected area. The shop building is located at the north end of the plant protected area, approximately 150 yards from plant buildings housing safety related equipment. The security officer was able to extinguish the fire with a portable fire extinguisher at approximately 0222 hours. The fire was confined to the trash barrel, with most of the burning occurring in the upper one-third of the barrel. There was no damage to plant equipment or buildings and there were no personnel injuries. No safety related equipment was affected.

ANALYSIS OF THE EVENT

Later in the morning of May 18, plant fire protection personnel were assisted by the local fire department in the initial investigation of the fire. No solid conclusion as to the cause of the fire was reached from this initial investigation. A decision was made to augment the initial investigation with an investigation by a Consumers Energy corporate investigator.

On May 21 and May 22, the corporate investigator reviewed reports and photographs, toured the fire area, examined the trash barrel and conducted interviews with selected individuals who were on site at the time of the occurrence. At the conclusion of these activities, the corporate investigator briefed plant management on the initial results of the investigation. The corporate investigator determined that the cause of the fire was suspicious; but the investigator could not positively identify a specific individual who may have been responsible for setting the fire. At 1835 hours, May 22, 2001, plant management completed an evaluation of the results of the corporate investigation, resulting in the determination that the occurrence was reportable pursuant to 10 CFR 73, Appendix G. Associated amplifying guidance is provided by Regulatory Guide 5.62, paragraph 2.2, item 5, for reporting of safeguards events, including reporting of fires of suspicious origin.

Later in the evening of May 22, the local Michigan State Police post was notified and responded to the site to initiate their investigation. A notification of the incident was also provided to the local Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) office.

Following further review of available information, unescorted access of the security officer who discovered and extinguished the fire was revoked the evening of May 22, pending further investigation.

On May 24, the Michigan State Police fire investigator's preliminary conclusion was received, which indicated that the fire had been intentionally set. The Michigan State Police is continuing its investigation.

SAFETY SIGNIFICANCE

There was no safety significance associated with this event. No plant equipment was affected.

CAUSE OF THE EVENT

Evidence suggests that the fire was intentionally set.

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)

FACILITY NAME (1)	DOCKET (2)	LER NUMBER (6)			PAGE (3)
PALISADES NUCLEAR PLANT	05000255	YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER	3 OF 3
		2001	-- 003 --	00	

NARRATIVE (If more space is required, use additional copies of NRC Form 366A) (17)

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Additional corrective actions, if necessary, will be determined upon completion of the investigation by the Michigan State Police.

PREVIOUS RELATED EVENTS

There have been no previous related safeguards events.