

August 7, 2008

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-08-008

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
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.	<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 FORCED SHUTDOWN TO REPLACE LEAKING CONTROL ROD DRIVE SEALS

DESCRIPTION:

On August 5, 2008, the licensee shut the plant down using normal shutdown procedures to replace several leaking Control Rod Drive (CRD) seals.

NRC inspectors and the licensee have been monitoring an increasing trend in CRD seal leakage. The leak rate had not reached Technical Specifications limits but had begun trending upward more rapidly over the last ten days. The elevated leakage rate and upward trend prompted a licensee decision to shut down in order to repair the leaking seals.

While limited CRD seal leakage is not unusual for the CRD seal design at Palisades, elevated CRD seal leakage rates and increasing leak-rate trends are indicators of CRD seal degradation. The site has experienced elevated CRD seal leakage rates and increasing leak-rate trends in the past which required similar plant shutdowns.

CRD leakage is routed to the containment sump where it is collected and processed. The leakage creates no unmonitored offsite dose impact nor did the CRD leakage impact safety system performance.

NRC inspectors will continue to monitor the shutdown, repair, and restart activities.

The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management.

The State of Michigan was informed.

This information is current as of 8:30 a.m. on August 7, 2008.

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