



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

REGION III
2443 WARRENVILLE ROAD, SUITE 210
LISLE, IL 60532-4352

March 4, 2011

Mr. Tom Kirwin
Vice-President, Operations (Acting)
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
Palisades Nuclear Plant
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway
Covert, MI 49043-9530

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR PALISADES NUCLEAR PLANT
(REPORT 05000255/2011001)**

Dear Mr. Kirwin:

On February 17, 2011, the NRC completed its end-of-cycle performance review of Palisades Nuclear Plant. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from January 1, 2010, through December 31, 2010. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility. This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter will include the NRC's assessment of your performance in the Security Cornerstone and its security-related inspection plan.

The NRC determined that overall, Palisades Nuclear Plant operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and met all cornerstone objectives. Performance during the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix because all inspection findings had very low (i.e., green) safety significance, and all PIs indicated that your performance was within the nominal, expected range (i.e., green). Plant performance for the first, second, and third quarters of 2010 was within the Regulatory Response column of the NRC's Action Matrix based on one inspection finding in the Initiating Events Cornerstone, from the fourth quarter of 2009, which involved degradation of the neutron absorption capability of the Spent Fuel Pool plates. On September 17, 2010, the NRC completed a supplemental inspection (Inspection Report No. 05000255/2010009) which closed the finding and concluded that Palisades transitioned to the Licensee Response column at the end of the third quarter. Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct ROP baseline inspections at your facility.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through June 30, 2012. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed during the last 9 months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the mid-cycle performance review. The NRC provides the inspection plan to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues. The NRC will contact you as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should circumstances warrant any changes.

T. Kirwin

-2-

In addition to the ROP baseline, inspections are planned for Temporary Instruction 2515/179, "Verification of Licensee Responses to NRC Requirement for Inventories of Materials Tracked in National Source Tracking System," Inspection Procedure 71003, "Post-Approval Site Inspection for License Renewal," and also Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) Inspection Procedure 60855.1, "Operation of an ISFSI at Operating Plants."

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Please contact me at 630/829-9619 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Steven West, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 50-255; 72-007
License No. DPR-20

Enclosure: Palisades Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/encl: Distribution via ListServ

Palisades
Inspection / Activity Plan
03/01/2011 - 06/30/2012

Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
Start	End			
		BI EP - EP ROUTINE INSPECTION / PI VERIFICATION		1
04/11/2011	04/15/2011	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing	
04/11/2011	04/15/2011	IP 7111403	Emergency Preparedness Organization Staffing and Augmentation System	
04/11/2011	04/15/2011	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies	
04/11/2011	04/15/2011	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
04/25/2011	04/29/2011	IP 71124.04	Occupational Dose Assessment	
04/25/2011	04/29/2011	IP 71124.06	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment	
04/25/2011	04/29/2011	IP 71151-BI01	Reactor Coolant System Activity	
04/25/2011	04/29/2011	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent	
		BI ENG - COMPONENT DESIGN BASES INSPECTION		7
06/13/2011	07/15/2011	IP 2515/177	Managing Gas Accumulation In Emergency Core Cooling, Decay Heat Removal & Containment Spray System	
06/13/2011	07/15/2011	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
06/13/2011	06/16/2011	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
07/25/2011	07/29/2011	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
07/25/2011	07/29/2011	IP 71124.03	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
07/25/2011	07/29/2011	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
		ISFSI - ISFSI INSPECTION - SCHEDULE DEPENDENT		2
09/01/2011	10/31/2011	IP 60855.1	Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
10/31/2011	11/04/2011	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
01/23/2012	01/27/2012	IP 71124.03	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
01/23/2012	01/27/2012	IP 71124.04	Occupational Dose Assessment	
		BI OL - BIENNIAL REQUAL PROGRAM INSPECTION		2
02/20/2012	02/24/2012	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program	
		BI ENG - INSERVICE INSPECTION		1
04/08/2012	05/13/2012	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
04/16/2012	04/20/2012	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
04/16/2012	04/20/2012	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
		OL PREP - PALISADES INIT PREP - JUNE 2012		3
06/04/2012	06/08/2012	W90246	OL - INITIAL EXAM - JUNE 2012 - PALI	

Palisades
Inspection / Activity Plan
03/01/2011 - 06/30/2012

Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
Start	End			
		OL EXAM - PALISADES INIT EXAM - JUNE 2012		3
06/25/2012	07/06/2012	W90246	OL - INITIAL EXAM - JUNE 2012 - PALI	

T. Kirwin

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Steven West, Director
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Enclosure: Palisades Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/encl: Distribution via ListServ

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Letter to T. Kirwin from S. West dated March 4, 2011.

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR PALISADES NUCLEAR PLANT
(REPORT 05000255/2011001)

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