



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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

September 1, 2011

Mr. Anthony Vitale
Vice-President, Operations
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
Palisades Nuclear Plant
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway
Covert, MI 49043-9530

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE LETTER FOR PALISADES NUCLEAR PLANT;
05000255/2011-006

Dear Mr. Vitale:

On August 10, 2011, the NRC completed its mid-cycle performance review of the Palisades Nuclear Plant. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011. 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 the performance at the Palisades Nuclear Plant 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). Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct ROP baseline inspections at your facility.

The NRC identified a cross-cutting theme in the Resources component in the area of Human Performance. Specifically, there were five findings considered to have a cross-cutting aspect of documentation/procedures H.2(c). In reviewing your actions to date, the NRC noted that you have entered the condition into your corrective action program and completed a root cause evaluation. The NRC determined that a substantive cross-cutting issue (SCCI) associated with H.2(c) does not exist because the NRC does not have a concern with your staff's scope of effort and progress in addressing the cross-cutting theme based on the limited time since completion of the root cause. In addition, the NRC identified a cross-cutting theme in the Decision Making component of the Human Performance area. Specifically, there were four findings considered

to have a cross-cutting aspect of conservative assumptions, H.1(b). The NRC determined that a SCCI associated with H.1(b) does not exist because the NRC does not have a concern with your staff's scope of effort and progress in addressing the cross-cutting theme since the theme did not develop until late in the second quarter. The NRC will continue to monitor your staff's effort and progress in addressing these themes.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through December 31, 2012. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed during the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-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. We also plan on performing special and infrequently performed inspections: Inspection Procedure (IP) 60855.1, "Operation of an ISFSI at Operating Plants and IP 71003, "Post-Approval Site Inspection For License Renewal - Followup."

In the days following the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident in Japan, the Commission directed the staff to establish a senior-level agency task force to conduct a methodical and systematic review of the NRC's processes and regulations to determine whether the agency should make additional improvements to its regulatory system. The NRC has since completed Temporary Instruction (TI) 183, "Follow-up to Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Station Fuel Damage Event," and TI-184, "Availability and Readiness Inspection of Severe Accident Management Guidelines (SAMGs)" at your facility. Results of these inspections can be found here: <http://www.nrc.gov/japan/japan-activities.html>. Additionally, on May 11, 2011, the agency issued NRC Bulletin 2011-01, "Mitigating Strategies," to confirm compliance with Order EA-02-026, subsequently imposed license conditions, and 10 CFR 50.54(hh)(2), and to determine the status of licensee mitigating strategies programs. On July 12, 2011, the NRC's Task Force made its recommendations to the Commission in its report, "Recommendations for Enhancing Reactor Safety in the 21st Century: The Near-Term Task Force Review of Insights from the Fukushima Daiichi Accident." The NRC is currently reviewing the Task Force's recommendations to determine what additional actions may be warranted.

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).

A. Vitale

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Please contact me at 630-829-9619 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John B. Giessner, Chief
Branch 4
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 50-255
License No. DPR-20

Enclosure: Palisades Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/encl: Distribution via ListServ

A. Vitale

-3-

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Letter to A. Vitale from J. Giessner dated September 1, 2011.

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE LETTER FOR PALISADES NUCLEAR PLANT;
05000255/2011-006

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Palisades
Inspection / Activity Plan
09/01/2011 - 12/31/2012

Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
Start	End			
		ISFSI - ISFSI INSPECTION - SCHEDULE DEPENEDENT		1
09/01/2011	10/31/2011	IP 60855.1	Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants	
		ER SIT - SIT - 7C SW PUMP COUPLING FAILURE		6
08/12/2011	09/16/2011	IP 93812	Special Inspection	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
08/29/2011	09/02/2011	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
10/03/2011	10/06/2011	IP 71124.06	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment	
10/03/2011	10/06/2011	IP 71151-BI01	Reactor Coolant System Activity	
10/03/2011	10/06/2011	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent	
		RENEWAL - LICENSE RENEWAL INSPECTION 71003-3		2
11/14/2011	11/18/2011	IP 71003	Post-Approval Site Inspection for License Renewal	
		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 PI&R - BIENNIAL PI&R		4
01/30/2012	02/17/2012	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	
		BI OLRQ - BIENNIAL REQUAL PROGRAM INSPECTION		2
02/13/2012	02/17/2012	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program	
		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	
		BI ISI - INSERVICE INSPECTION		1
04/16/2012	05/11/2012	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
		OL PREP - PALISADES INIT PREP - JUNE 2012		4
06/04/2012	06/08/2012	W90246	OL - INITIAL EXAM - 2012 JUNE - PALI	
		OL EXAM - PALISADES INIT EXAM - JUNE 2012		4
06/25/2012	07/06/2012	W90246	OL - INITIAL EXAM - 2012 JUNE - PALI	
		BI HS - TRIENNIAL HEAT SINK INSPECTION		2
07/16/2012	07/20/2012	IP 7111107T	Heat Sink Performance	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
07/16/2012	07/20/2012	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	

Palisades
Inspection / Activity Plan
09/01/2011 - 12/31/2012

Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
Start	End			
		BI FIRE - FIRE PROTECTION INSPECTION & BAG TRIP		4
10/08/2012	11/09/2012	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
10/15/2012	10/19/2012	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
10/15/2012	10/19/2012	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
		BI EPX - EP EXERCISE INSPECTION / PI VERIFICATION		2
10/29/2012	11/02/2012	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation	
10/29/2012	11/02/2012	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
11/05/2012	11/09/2012	IP 71124.05	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	