

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

June 14, 2012

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE - PNO-III-12-004

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

Licensee Emergency Classification

Notification of Unusual Event
 Alert
 Site Area Emergency
 General Emergency
 Not Applicable

SUBJECT: PALISADES SHUTDOWN DUE TO SAFETY INJECTION REFUELING WATER STORAGE TANK LEAKAGE

Description: On June 12, 2012, at 1456 EDT, Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. notified the NRC that operators at the Palisades plant began to shut down the reactor due to a leak in the safety injection refueling water storage tank (SIRWT).

The SIRW tank is not used for daily plant operations. The tank, which contains a minimum of 250,000 gallons, is a source of borated water for activities during refueling outages and supplies the Emergency Core Cooling Systems and the Containment Spray System during emergencies.

The operators commenced the plant shutdown when the SIRWT leakage of 31.4 gallons per day exceeded the limit of 31 gallons per day established for the operability of the tank. The leakage is being collected and measured by the licensee. The leakage is not being released to the environment.

The plant was shut down safely and is in a stable condition. There is no threat to public health and safety.

The licensee is investigating the cause of the leak and evaluating what repairs need to be completed prior to restarting the unit. The duration of the shutdown is expected to exceed 72 hours.

The NRC resident inspectors have been monitoring the leakage from the tank since early May and ensuring that the plant has taken the predetermined actions when the leakage increased. A region-based inspector will be on-site to assist the resident inspectors in reviewing and observing the actions the plant will take to identify and repair the leak.

There has been media coverage of the issue.

The State of Michigan has been notified.

The information in this preliminary notification is current as of 11:00 a.m. EDT on June 14, 2012.

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.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML12166A261

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