

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION – REGION III

September 25, 2012

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE – PNO-III-12-012

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
License: DPR-20

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: PALISADES LEAKAGE FROM THE SERVICE WATER SYSTEM

During a routine inspection in the auxiliary building on September 20, 2012, the NRC resident inspector discovered water leaking near service water piping and valves. The service water system draws water from Lake Michigan to cool pumps, heat exchangers, and other plant equipment during routine operation. It would also be used to cool other additional components such as the emergency diesel generators in case of an emergency. The leak is not radioactive and is not a threat to public safety.

After being informed about the situation, the licensee identified a pinhole, through-wall leak on a service water valve (SW-136). The leak rate is about six milliliters per minute (about 1½ cups per hour). NRC inspectors have been monitoring the leak, which is not increasing and appears to be stable. They have confirmed it is not impacting other equipment.

NRC inspectors have reviewed the licensee's assessment of the structural integrity of the valve and their conclusion that it does not interfere with the system's ability to perform its function. The NRC has no immediate safety concerns with this issue.

NRC inspectors continue to evaluate the implications of this issue, and continue to monitor the leakage.

The State of Michigan has been notified.

Any meeting summaries of the discussions between the NRC and licensee regarding the leak will be available through the NRC's public documents system at <http://adams.nrc.gov/wba/>.

The information in this preliminary notification is current as of 08:00 (EDT) on September 25, 2012. This information has been reviewed with plant management.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML12269A179

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