

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION – REGION III

February 22, 2013

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE – PNO-III-13-002A

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest or 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: UPDATE - PALISADES SHUTDOWN DUE TO LEAKAGE FROM THE COMPONENT COOLING WATER (CCW) SYSTEM

This Preliminary Notification updates information provided in PNO-III-13-002, which discussed the Palisades plant shutdown on February 15, 2013. Leakage from the CCW system was determined to be from inside of the 'A' CCW heat exchanger due to a potential tube leak. At that point, the heat exchanger was declared inoperable. The licensee shut down the plant in accordance with technical specifications since repairs could not be completed on line.

After the plant was shut down and cooled down, the licensee inspected about 20 percent of the 2000 tubes in the 'A' CCW heat exchanger. One tube was determined to have a through wall leak. Through-wall leaks are leaks that originate from cracks or material loss that go all the way through the wall of a component. All through-wall leaks that are in safety related components are required to be repaired. The 'A' CCW heat exchanger is safety related. The licensee plugged the heat exchanger tube that had the through wall leak. The licensee also plugged 9 additional tubes due to potential blockage that could cause excessive wear. This provided additional assurance there will be no leakage during power operations. The licensee is allowed to plug 201 tubes in the 'A' CCW heat exchanger before declaring the heat exchanger inoperable, and they are well below that number.

The leak in the 'A' CCW heat exchanger was not impacting other plant equipment, was not radioactive, and was not a threat to public health and safety.

The NRC resident inspectors and an expert from the region monitored the licensee's activities to find, inspect and plug the heat exchanger tubes and verified that the repairs were adequate. The testing conducted after the tubes were plugged confirmed that there was no leakage from the heat exchanger. The licensee placed the heat exchanger back into service and declared it operable, before starting up the plant.

On February 22, 2013, the Palisades plant resumed operation after the repairs were completed. The reactor was made critical at 2:52 p.m. (EST) on February 21, and the main generator was synchronized to the grid at 12:44 a.m. (EST) on February 22, 2013. These startup activities were monitored by the NRC resident inspectors.

The State of Michigan has been notified.

The information in this preliminary notification is current as of 2:30 p.m. (EST) on February 22, 2013. This information has been reviewed with plant management.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML 13053A365

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