

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

REGION III

Report No. 50-255/79-11

Docket No. 50-255

License No. DPR-20

Licensee: Consumers Power Company
212 West Michigan Avenue
Jackson, MI 49201

Facility Name: Palisades Nuclear Generating Plant

Inspection At: Palisades Site, Covert, MI

Inspection Conducted: July 2, 3, 5, 6, 9-11, 13, 17-20 and 23-27, 1979

Inspector: *B. L. Jorgensen*
B. L. Jorgensen

9-17-79
(Date)

Approved By: *D. C. Boyd*
D. C. Boyd, Chief
Reactor Projects Section 3

9-17-79
(Date)

Inspection Summary

Inspection on July 2, 3, 5, 6, 9-11, 13, 17-20 and 23-27, 1979
(Report No. 50-255/79-11)

Areas Inspected: Routine plant resident inspection program conducted in July 1979 covering: facility operations; radwaste inspection solidification system operation and package shipment; corrective action system items; new fuel receipt; and other miscellaneous activities. The inspection involved 143 on-site inspection hours by the NRC Resident Inspector.

Results: Of the five areas inspected, no items of noncompliance or deviations were identified in any of the five areas.

DETAILS

1. Persons Contacted

- *J. G. Lewis, General Manager-Palisades
- *H. W. Keiser, Plant Operations/Maintenance Superintendent
- K. W. Berry, Plant Technical Superintendent
- *G. H. R. Petitjean, Technical Engineer-Nuclear
- F. G. Butler, Instrument and Control Engineer-Nuclear
- J. H. Dearth, Instrument and Control Supervisor
- D. W. Kozin, Plant Laboratory Supervisor
- J. A. Meincke, Reactor Engineer
- *D. K. Powers, Quality Assurance Inspector
- T. P. Neal, Radioactive Material Control Supervisor
- D. L. Beach, Electrical Maintenance Supervisor
- E. C. Huss, Plant Material Service Supervisor
- D. W. Tanschwager, Plant Shift Supervisor
- A. F. Brookhouse, Plant Shift Supervisor
- D. W. Kaupa, Plant Shift Supervisor
- J. S. Everett, Quality Control Inspector

*Denotes those present at management interview on July 27 1979.

The inspector also had discussions with a number of other individuals from the plant operations, maintenance and health physics staffs.

2. Facility Operations

a. Control Room

This inspection included control room observations at least once each inspection day. Plant status, equipment status, alarms or off-normal conditions, and facility manipulations were reviewed and discussed with shift supervisory personnel and control operators. Required safeguards equipment was observed to be operating or available at all times. Operators were aware of the basis for annunciated conditions. A minor discrepancy was noted between the actual safety injection "bottle" low pressure alarm setpoint (about 208 psig) and the setpoint identified for this condition in the pertinent alarm response procedure (200 psig).

Portions of a power reduction for turbine valve testing on July 6, 1979, were specifically observed, as were portions of the power escalation on July 26 following condenser tube repairs.

b. Operations Logs

The inspector reviewed the Daily Orders Logbook for June 1979, and selected current entries of the Shift Supervisor's Log, the Control Room Log, and the Reactor Log.

c. Plant Tours

Various plant areas were visited on all inspection days. Specific tours of selected areas to search for abnormal or unsafe conditions were conducted on July 5, 13, 18, 19, and 27, 1979. No significant items were noted. Minor items were identified to the duty shift supervisor for resolutions. Subsequent tours verified proper action had been taken for these tours.

The inspector also accompanied and observed a plant auxiliary operator on his routine initial rounds of the secondary plant on July 23, 1979.

No items of noncompliance or deviations were identified.

3. Radwaste Solidification System

The licensee was notified in early July, 1979, that a routine shipment of solidified evaporator bottoms, had arrived at the Nuclear Engineering Company's (NECo) Beatty, Nevada waste burial facility with two of twelve containers leaking liquid. Pursuant to a request by the NRC Region III Office of Inspection and Enforcement, the inspector reviewed procedures and data relating to "liner" packaging and shipment, focusing on the shipment in question, which was dispatched from the Palisades site on June 27, 1979. The inspector also accompanied Messrs. F. Tupper and W. Hill of the Office of Motor Carrier Safety, Federal Highway Administration, during their review of this matter at the Palisades site on July 9, 1979. Details of these inspection findings will be included in a future inspection report.

4. Corrective Action System

The inspector reviewed files relating to matters identified in the licensee's self-review program for corrective action. Selected individual items were then followed up in some detail to determine they had been appropriately assigned, evaluated and received, and proper action taken. The specific items examined included failure of the motor-driven auxiliary feedwater pump to start, failure to exercise proper administrative control when removing a safety-related component from service, and failure of one of the vital 2400 v. buses to fast-transfer to offsite power on a unit trip.

The licensee's actions were deemed satisfactory in each case.

No items of noncompliance or deviations were identified.

5. New Fuel Receipt

The licensee received two shipments of new fuel comprising 34 bundles each on July 16 and 19, respectively. Off-loading of the second shipment on July 20 was observed by the NRC inspector. Procedures were available and in use, licensee Quality Control was present and performing the required inspections, as was Health Physics, and requirements relating to

lifting, moving and stacking containers were adhered to. Preparatory to future observation of individual fuel bundle unpacking, inspection and storage, the NRC inspector reviewed the following procedures during this inspection period (July, 1979):

FHS-M-10 Fuel Receiving Procedure for Exxon Fuel
QCP-7-12 New Fuel Receipt Inspection
SOP 28 Fuel Handling System

6. Miscellaneous Inspection Activities

The following inspection activities were conducted at various times during July, 1979, for the purpose of improving inspector knowledge concerning plant or system routine operations and to verify proper attention to safety and procedures:

- a. Observation of a transfer of low-level contaminated trash prior to compaction and shipping
- b. Observation of off-loading of urea-formaldehyde for use in the liquid waste solidification system
- c. Review of the facility fire protection implementing procedure
- d. Observation of the use of the steam generator mock-up to provide experience in preparation for possible tube unplugging during the next refueling outage
- e. Observation of preparations for condenser tube leak identification and repair
- f. Review and discussion concerning secondary system chemistry parameters during condenser tube leak incidents

No items of noncompliance or deviations were identified.

7. Management Interviews

A management interview was conducted at the conclusion of the inspection on July 27, 1979. Additional meetings to discuss inspection status were held on July 6, 13, and 20, 1979. The following matters were specifically discussed at the July 27 meeting:

The inspector summarized the scope of the inspection.