

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the staff on this date.

Facility: Consumers Power Company  
Palisades Nuclear Power Station  
Docket No. 50-255  
Covert, MI 49043

Licensee Emergency Classification:  
       Notification of Unusual Event  
       Alert  
       Site Area Emergency  
       General Emergency  
  X   Not Applicable

Subject: DESIGN DEFICIENCY - DIESEL GENERATOR LOAD SEQUENCER

While designing circuitry for the addition of a third auxiliary feedwater pump, the licensee's contractor, Bechtel Corporation, identified a design deficiency in the sequencer which loads essential plant equipment to the diesel generator in the event of a loss of offsite power with a loss-of-coolant accident. (The sequencer circuitry connects equipment to the diesel generator electrical buss in a sequence to avoid overloading the generator.)

The contractor's review determined that if a loss of offsite power was followed by a loss-of-coolant accident after the normal sequencer had timed out in 45 seconds, emergency core cooling system components would not automatically be added to the electrical bus supplied by the diesel generator. The deficiency is due to the time-out of the normal sequencer disabling the accident sequencer.

The plant has been shut down since July 11, 1982, for replacement of cooling tower pumps, but was being readied for startup. Region III (Chicago) if necessary, will issue a Confirmation of Action Letter to the licensee confirming that the plant will remain shut down until the design deficiency is corrected and the modification tested. The licensee is currently evaluating the problem to determine what corrective action is required.

Region III is also reviewing the design deficiency to determine if it is generic to other Bechtel plants. Region III is keeping NRE and IE informed. The Senior Resident Inspector is following the licensee's efforts.

Neither Region III nor the licensee plans to issue a news announcement at this time. No news media interest is anticipated.

The State of Michigan will be notified.

Region III was notified of the design problem at 12:30 p.m. (CDT) August 26, 1982, by the Senior Resident Inspector. Additional information was received later in the day. This information is current as of 10:30 a.m. (CDT) on August 27, 1982.

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