

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 Region III staff on this date. *WJ*

Facility: Palisades Nuclear Licensee Emergency Classification  
 Power Plant General Emergency Site Area Emergency  
 South Haven, MI Alert \_\_\_\_\_ Unusual Event \_\_\_\_\_ N/A X

Docket No. 50-255

Subject: WATER LEAKING FROM SHIPMENT OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL

On February 5, 1992, a truck carrying radioactive material from the Palisades plant, stopped at Exit 12 on Interstate 94 near Sawyer, Michigan, when the driver stopped for unrelated reasons and noticed water leaking from the cargo. Local authorities responded and roped off an area surrounding the truck. Health physics personnel from the Palisades and D.C. Cook nuclear plants responded to the scene, conducted surveys, and obtained water samples for analysis. Subsequent analysis determined the water was not contaminated, so there was no radiological hazard. The truck was then rerouted back to the Palisades plant, arriving at approximately 6:15 p.m. EST.

The radioactive material being transported was a spent fuel rack that had been in storage for approximately ten years. At the time of the incident, Palisades personnel were unsure as to the source of the water.

On February 6, 1992, two NRC inspectors arrived at the Palisades plant to conduct independent surveys, obtain water samples, and further evaluate the source of the water. Samples obtained and analyzed onsite indicated very low levels of radioactivity in the samples of water. Although still under investigation, it appears the water was trapped inside the the fuel rack matrix.

The State of Michigan was notified of this event. Information in this Preliminary Notification has been reviewed with licensee management. Region III (Chicago) was notified of this event at 5:09 p.m. (CST), February 5, 1992. This information is current as of 4:15 p.m. (CST), February 6, 1992.

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*110*

\*Denotes a Displaywriter/PC not an IBM 5520 Terminal.  
 Rev. 10/23/90