

PDR advance copy  
for J. R. Kelly

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

November 30, 1978

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-78-197

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

Facility: Consumers Power Company, Palisades  
Covert, MI (DN 50-255)

Subject: CONTROL ROD DRIVE SEAL LEAKAGE

The Palisades Nuclear Plant was shutdown on November 28, 1978 to correct excessive control rod drive mechanism (CRDM) seal leakage. This is the ninth forced outage to correct excessive CRDM seal leakage since the last refueling. During that refueling outage (January 6, 1978 - April 20, 1978) preventive maintenance was performed on all 45 CRDM's including replacement of the seals. The licensee is investigating the cause of the leakage and believes it to be a metallurgy problem associated with the seal material. Most of the seals installed during the refueling outage have been replaced and the remaining 24 will be replaced during the current outage. The unit is expected to be down for twelve days.

Region III (Chicago) is following the problem. Two RIII inspectors are at the site. The licensee has informed news media of the plant outage. The state of Michigan has been informed.

Region III received notification of the plant shutdown by telephone from our inspector at the site at 5:30 p.m. EST on November 29, 1978.

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o/i  
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