

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION - REGION III

May 23, 2022

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE - PNO-III-22-002

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. Some of the information may not yet be fully verified or evaluated by the Region III staff.

Facility

Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
Palisades Nuclear Plant
Covert, Michigan
Docket No. 50-255

Licensee Emergency Classification

Notification of Unusual Event
 Alert
 Site Area Emergency
 General Emergency
 Not Applicable

SUBJECT: UNPLANNED SHUTDOWN DUE TO ELEVATED PRIMARY COOLANT SYSTEM LEAK RATE AND PERMANENT PLANT SHUTDOWN

On May 20, 2022, at 03:57 p.m. EDT, the licensee shutdown the Palisades Nuclear Plant in response to increasing Primary Coolant System leak-off due to a degrading seal on the #23 Control Rod Drive Mechanism. The shutdown was a conservative decision based on equipment performance and was not required by the plant Technical Specifications. The NRC resident inspectors observed the shutdown and identified no concerns. Entergy had announced the permanent shutdown of Palisades in 2017. The scheduled date for the shutdown was May 31, 2022. Due to the proximity to this date the licensee has currently chosen not to restart the plant at this time and instead will begin decommissioning activities. Currently, the plant is in Cold Shutdown.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only and no further action by the staff is anticipated.

Region III received initial notification of the planned shutdown by telephone call from the licensee at 08:16 a.m. EDT on May 20, 2022. The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of time and date.

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