



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION III
2443 WARRENVILLE ROAD, SUITE 210
LISLE, IL 60532-4352

September 3, 2013

Mr. Anthony Vitale
Vice President, Operations
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
Palisades Nuclear Plant
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway
Covert, MI 49043-9530

**SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR PALISADES
NUCLEAR PLANT (REPORT 05000255/20130006)**

Dear Mr. Vitale:

On August 14, 2013, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed its mid-cycle performance review of the Palisades Nuclear Plant. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility.

The NRC determined the performance at Palisades Nuclear Power Plant during the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix because all inspection findings had very low (i.e., green) safety significance, and all PIs indicated that your performance was within the nominal, expected range (i.e., green). Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct ROP baseline inspections at your facility. Additionally, as stated in our Assessment Follow-up Letter dated November 9, 2012 (ML12314A304), the NRC is deviating from the ROP to conduct additional inspections, above baseline, during 2013, to: (1) follow-up on corrective actions regarding performance improvement efforts that had not been implemented when the Inspection Procedure (IP) 95002, "Inspection for One Degraded Cornerstone or Any Three White Performance Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area," inspection concluded, as well as assessing the corrective actions' sustainability; and (2) review a number of technical issues to verify that you determined the causes and implemented corrective actions to provide reasonable assurance that more significant safety concerns do not develop. Specifics on the reasons behind this deviation were provided in an ROP Deviation Memorandum to R. W. Borchardt, Executive Director of Operations, dated November 8, 2012 (ML12306A367).

During this assessment period, there were eleven findings identified in the area of human performance (HP). In our end-of-cycle performance letter dated March 4, 2013 (ML13063A141), we advised you of one substantive cross-cutting issue (SCCI) in the area of HP with a cross-cutting theme in the aspect of Oversight (H.4(c)). In addition, we advised you that the HP substantive cross-cutting issue will remain open until the number of findings in the H.4(c) aspect was reduced and you demonstrated the implementation of effective corrective actions that resulted in sustained performance improvement in the HP area. This SCCI has been open for three consecutive assessment periods.

With regards to Oversight (H.4(c)), there were only two findings in this HP aspect during the current assessment cycle, a reduction in number as it relates to our last assessment. Through our observations during inspections, we determined that your corrective actions have been effective in addressing this issue, and sustained performance improvement has been demonstrated. Some corrective actions that have been implemented since the end-of-cycle review include increasing the use and trending of "What It Looks Like" (WILL) observation sheets and providing feedback for the behaviors seen; reinforcing procedure use, compliance, and accountability throughout the organization; emphasizing the use of risk management tools; and increasing awareness of mitigating strategies for risk-related work activities. The NRC has seen an increase in management involvement in risk-significant work activities and an increase in the number of WILL sheet observations done by station management that provided valuable feedback to the workers or other managers. Based on these observations and our inspections, the SCCI in Oversight (H.4(c)) is closed.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through December 31, 2014. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed during the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle performance review. The NRC provides the inspection plan to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues. The NRC will contact you as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should circumstances warrant any changes. This inspection plan does not include security related inspections, which will be sent via separate, non-publicly available correspondence.

In addition to the ROP baseline inspections, inspections are planned for Inspection Procedure (IP) 92703, "Follow-up on Confirmatory Action Letters or Orders from ADR"; IP 92709, "Strike Contingency Plans," and IP 92711, "Continued Implementation of Strike Plans During an Extended Strike"; Temporary Instruction (TI) 2515/182, "Review of the Implementation of the Industry Initiative to Control Degradation of Underground Piping"; Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) inspections; IP 60854.1, "Preoperational Testing of ISFSIs at Operating Plants"; IP 60855.1, "Operation of an ISFSI at Operating Plants"; and IP 60856.1, "Review of 10 CFR 72.212(b) Evaluations at Operating Plants." In addition, team inspections involving IP 71152B, "Biennial Problem Identification and Resolution," IP 71111.21, "Component Design Basis Inspection," and W90308, "Operator Licensing Initial Exam" are scheduled.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records System (PARS) component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

A. Vitale

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Please contact Mr. Jamie Benjamin at 630-829-9619 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Kenneth G. O'Brien, Acting Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 50-255
License No. DPR-20

Enclosure: Palisades Nuclear Plant
Inspection/Activity Plan

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A. Vitale

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Letter to A. Vitale from K. O'Brien dated September 3, 2013

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR PALISADES
NUCLEAR PLANT (REPORT 05000255/20130006)

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Palisades
Inspection / Activity Plan
09/01/2013 - 12/31/2014

Unit Number	Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
	Start	End			
			BI EPR - EP ROUTINE INSPECTION / PI VERIFICATION		2
1	09/09/2013	09/13/2013	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing	
1	09/09/2013	09/13/2013	IP 7111403	Emergency Preparedness Organization Staffing and Augmentation System	
1	09/09/2013	09/13/2013	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies	
1	09/09/2013	09/13/2013	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
1	10/07/2013	10/11/2013	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
1	10/07/2013	10/11/2013	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
1	10/28/2013	11/01/2013	IP 71124.07	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program	
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
1	11/04/2013	11/08/2013	IP 71124.06	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment	
1	11/04/2013	11/08/2013	IP 71151-BI01	Reactor Coolant System Activity	
1	11/04/2013	11/08/2013	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
1	11/04/2013	11/08/2013	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent	
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
1	12/02/2013	12/06/2013	IP 71124.05	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	
			TI 182 - TI 182 BURIED PIPING PHASE 2		1
1	12/16/2013	12/20/2013	IP 2515/182	Review of the Implementation of the Industry Initiative to Control Degradation of Underground Piping	
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
1	01/06/2014	01/10/2014	IP 71124.03	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
1	01/06/2014	01/10/2014	IP 71124.04	Occupational Dose Assessment	
			BI ISI - ISI BASELINE INSPECTION		1
1	01/20/2014	02/28/2014	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
			ISFSI - ISFSI INSPECTION - SCHEDULE DEPENDENT		1
1	03/01/2014	07/31/2014	IP 60856.1	Review of 10 CFR 72.212(b) Evaluations at Operating Plants	
			BI OLRQ - BIENNIAL REQUAL PROGRAM INSPECTION		2
1	04/07/2014	04/11/2014	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program	
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
1	04/14/2014	04/18/2014	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
			PI&R - BIENNIAL PI&R		7
1	05/05/2014	05/23/2014	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

Palisades
Inspection / Activity Plan
09/01/2013 - 12/31/2014

Unit Number	Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
	Start	End			
			ISFSI - ISFSI PREOP TESTING - SCHEDULE DEPENDENT		1
1	06/01/2014	09/30/2014	IP 60854.1	Preoperational Testing of Independent Spent Fuel Storage Facility Installation at Operating Plants	
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
1	07/07/2014	07/11/2014	IP 71124.05	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	
			OL PREP - INITIAL EXAM - 09/2014		3
1	09/08/2014	09/12/2014	W90308	OL - INITIAL EXAM - 2014 JUN-FEB - PALI	
			BI ENG - COMPONENT DESIGN BASIS INSPECTION		6
1	09/08/2014	10/10/2014	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection	
			OL EXAM - INIT EXAM FOR 09/2014		3
1	09/15/2014	09/26/2014	W90308	OL - INITIAL EXAM - 2014 JUN-FEB - PALI	
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
1	10/06/2014	10/10/2014	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
1	10/06/2014	10/10/2014	IP 71151-BI01	Reactor Coolant System Activity	
1	10/06/2014	10/10/2014	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
1	10/06/2014	10/10/2014	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent	
			BI EPX - EP EXERCISE INSPECTION / PI VERIFICATION		2
1	10/27/2014	10/31/2014	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
			ISFSI - ISFSI OPERATION - SCHEDULE DEPENDENT		1
1	11/01/2014	11/30/2014	IP 60855.1	Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants	
			ISFSI - ISFSI INSPECTION - SCHEDULE DEPENDENT		1
1	11/01/2014	11/30/2014	IP 60855.1	Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants	

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