



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

REGION III  
2443 WARRENVILLE RD. SUITE 210  
LISLE, IL 60532-4352

September 1, 2015

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 05000255/2015005)**

Dear Mr. Vitale:

On August 13, 2015, 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, 2014 through June 30, 2015. 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 during the most recent quarter was within the Regulatory Response Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix because of a finding of low-to-moderate safety significance (White) in the Occupational Radiation Safety cornerstone that was identified in the fourth quarter of 2014. The White finding was associated with the failure to adequately assess the radiation dose to workers who were replacing control rod drive mechanism housings in February and March 2014.

On July 20, 2015, your staff notified the NRC of your readiness for a supplemental inspection to review the actions taken to address the performance issues. Therefore, in addition to ROP baseline inspections, the NRC plans to conduct a supplemental inspection in accordance with Inspection Procedure (IP) 95001, "Supplemental Inspection for One or Two White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area," beginning on August 31, 2015, to review your actions to address the performance issues associated with this White finding.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through December 31, 2017. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed during the second half 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, the NRC plans to conduct infrequent inspections related to IP 92709, "Contingency Plans for Licensee Strikes or Lockouts," and IP 92711, "Implementation of Licensee Contingency Plans During a Strike/Lockout," if needed due to expiring contracts; and Temporary Instruction (TI) 2515/190, "Inspection of Licensee's Proposed

Interim Actions as a Result of the Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.1 Flooding Evaluation.”

In response to the accident at Fukushima, the Commission issued Order EA-12-049, “Order Modifying Licenses with Regard to Requirements for Mitigation Strategies for Beyond-Design-Basis External Events,” which requires licensees to develop, implement, and maintain guidance and strategies to maintain or restore core cooling, containment, and spent fuel pool cooling capabilities following a beyond-design-basis external event. Additionally, the Commission issued Order EA-12-051, “Order Modifying Licenses with Regard to Reliable Spent Fuel Pool Instrumentation,” which requires licensees to have a reliable means of remotely monitoring wide-range Spent Fuel Pool levels to support effective prioritization of event mitigation and recovery actions in the event of a beyond-design-basis external event. The NRC is conducting audits of licensee efforts towards compliance with these Orders. The audit has been completed at Palisades, and the information gathered will aid staff in development of the ultimate Safety Evaluation for the site. After the NRC staff receives the Final Compliance letter for the site, the Final Safety Evaluation will be issued. Then, the NRC staff will confirm through inspections the full implementation of the orders mentioned above performing TI 2515/191, “Inspection of the Implementation of Mitigation Strategies and Spent Fuel Pool Instrumentation Orders and Emergency Preparedness Communication/Staffing/Multi-Unit Dose Assessment Plans”.

In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 2.390 of the NRC’s “Rules of Practice,” a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (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).

Please contact Mr. Eric Duncan at 630-829-9620 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Patrick L. Loudon, Director  
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos. 50-255  
License Nos. DPR-20

Enclosure:  
Palisades Nuclear Plant Inspection/Activity Plan

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In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 2.390 of the NRC’s “Rules of Practice,” a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (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).

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Sincerely,  
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ADAMS Accession Number: ML15239B408

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OFFICE	RIII		RIII		RIII		RIII
NAME	JLennartz for CHunt:tr		EDuncan				
DATE	8/21/2015		8/21/2015				

**OFFICIAL RECORD COPY**

Letter to Anthony Vitale from Eric Duncan dated September 1, 2015.

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT LETTER FROM PALISADES NUCLEAR PLANT  
(REPORT 05000255/2015005)

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**Palisades**  
**Inspection / Activity Plan**  
**09/01/2015 - 12/31/2017**

Unit Number	Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
	Start	End			
			<b>BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION</b>		<b>1</b>
1	02/08/2016	02/12/2016	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
			<b>95001 - SUPPLEMENTAL-OCCUPATIONAL RAD SAFETY</b>		<b>1</b>
1	08/31/2015	09/04/2015	IP 95001	Supplemental Inspection for One or Two White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area	
			<b>BI ISI - ISI INSPECTION</b>		<b>2</b>
1	09/21/2015	10/15/2015	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
			<b>BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION</b>		<b>1</b>
1	10/05/2015	10/09/2015	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
			<b>BI ENG - TRIENNIAL HEAT SINK INSPECTION</b>		<b>2</b>
1	11/16/2015	11/20/2015	IP 7111107T	Heat Sink Performance	
			<b>BI OLRQ - BIENNIAL REQUAL PROGRAM INSPECTION</b>		<b>2</b>
1	02/08/2016	02/12/2016	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program	
			<b>ISFSI - ISFSI PREOP TESTING</b>		<b>1</b>
1	03/01/2016	05/30/2016	IP 60854.1	Preoperational Testing of Independent Spent Fuel Storage Facility Installation at Operating Plants	
			<b>PI&amp;R - BIENNIAL PI&amp;R INSPECTION</b>		<b>4</b>
1	03/21/2016	04/08/2016	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	
			<b>ISFSI - REVIEW OF 72.212 REPORT</b>		<b>1</b>
1	04/01/2016	04/29/2016	IP 60856	Review of 10 CFR 72.212(b) Evaluations	
			<b>BI EP - EP EXERCISE INSPECTION/ PI VERIFICATION</b>		<b>5</b>
1	04/25/2016	04/29/2016	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation	
1	04/25/2016	04/29/2016	IP 7111406	Drill Evaluation	
1	04/25/2016	04/29/2016	IP 7111408	Exercise Evaluation – Scenario Review	
1	04/25/2016	04/29/2016	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
			<b>ISFSI - ISFSI OPERATION - SCHEDULE DEPENDENT</b>		<b>2</b>
1	05/01/2016	06/30/2016	IP 60855.1	Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants	
			<b>BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION</b>		<b>1</b>
1	06/20/2016	06/24/2016	IP 71124.07	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program	
			<b>ENG BI - MODIFICATIONS / 50.59 INSPECTION</b>		<b>3</b>
1	06/27/2016	07/15/2016	IP 7111117T	Evaluations of Changes, Tests, and Experiments and Permanent Plant Modifications	
			<b>BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION</b>		<b>1</b>
1	08/15/2016	08/19/2016	IP 71124.03	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
1	08/15/2016	08/19/2016	IP 71124.04	Occupational Dose Assessment	
1	08/15/2016	08/19/2016	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	

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

**Palisades**  
**Inspection / Activity Plan**  
**09/01/2015 - 12/31/2017**

Unit Number	Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
	Start	End			
			<b>TI191 - FLEX/MITIGATING STRATEGIES/SFPI</b>		<b>4</b>
1	08/15/2016	08/19/2016	IP 2515/191	Inspection of Licensee's Responses to Order EA-12-049, EA-12-051 & EP Info Request March 12, 2012	
			<b>BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION</b>		<b>1</b>
1	11/28/2016	12/02/2016	IP 71124.08	Radioactive Solid Waste Processing and Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, and Transportation	
			<b>OL PREP - INIT EXAM/FEB. 2017</b>		<b>3</b>
1	01/16/2017	01/20/2017	W90358	OL - INITIAL EXAM - 2017 JAN-FEB - PALISADES	
			<b>BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION</b>		<b>1</b>
1	02/13/2017	02/17/2017	IP 71124.05	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	
			<b>OL EXAM - INIT EXAM/FEB. 2017</b>		<b>3</b>
1	02/13/2017	02/17/2017	W90358	OL - INITIAL EXAM - 2017 JAN-FEB - PALISADES	
			<b>ISI - INSERVICE INSPECTION</b>		<b>1</b>
1	04/23/2017	05/23/2017	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
			<b>BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION</b>		<b>1</b>
1	05/08/2017	05/12/2017	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
1	05/08/2017	05/12/2017	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
			<b>BI EP - EP BASELINE INSPECTION / PI VERIFICATION</b>		<b>1</b>
1	07/17/2017	07/21/2017	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing	
1	07/17/2017	07/21/2017	IP 7111403	Emergency Preparedness Organization Staffing and Augmentation System	
1	07/17/2017	07/21/2017	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies	
1	07/17/2017	07/21/2017	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
			<b>BI CDBI - COMPONENT DESIGN BASIS INSPECTION</b>		<b>6</b>
1	10/30/2017	12/01/2017	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection	

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