



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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

August 31, 2016

Mr. Charles Arnone
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 05000255/2016005)**

Dear Mr. Arnone:

On August 10, 2016, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed its mid-cycle performance review of Palisades Nuclear Plant. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. 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 that overall, Palisades Nuclear Plant operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and met all cornerstone objectives. The NRC determined the performance at Palisades Nuclear 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.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through June 30, 2018. 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 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," and Order EA-12-051, "Order Modifying Licenses with Regard to Reliable Spent Fuel Pool Instrumentation." The NRC conducted audits of licensee efforts towards compliance with these Orders, and the information gathered will aid staff in development of the ultimate Safety Evaluation for the site. The NRC staff received the

Palisades Nuclear Plant Final Compliance letter for Order EA-12-049 and Order EA-12-051 on December 16, 2015. On August 22, 2016, the NRC issued the Palisades Nuclear Plant Safety Evaluation, and will confirm full implementation of the orders discussed above by performing Temporary Instruction 191, "Inspection of the Implementation of Mitigation Strategies and Spent Fuel Pool Instrumentation Orders and Emergency Preparedness Communication/Staffing/Multi-Unit Dose Assessment Plans," starting on September 26 of this year.

In Staff Requirements Memorandum – SECY 16-0009, "Recommendations Resulting from the Integrated Prioritization and Re-Baselining of Agency Activities," the Commission approved the NRC staff recommendation to discontinue the formal mid-cycle assessment process beginning in calendar year 2017. This will be the final mid-cycle assessment letter. The staff will continue to conduct quarterly assessment meetings and communicate changes in the assessment of licensee performance in accordance with the guidance in Inspection Manual Chapter 0305, "Operating Reactor Assessment Program."

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 document 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 me at 630-829-9620 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Eric Duncan, Chief
Branch 3
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosure:
Inspection Plan

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Palisades Nuclear Plant Final Compliance letter for Order EA-12-049 and Order EA-12-051 on December 16, 2015. On August 22, 2016, the NRC issued the Palisades Nuclear Plant Safety Evaluation, and will confirm full implementation of the orders discussed above by performing Temporary Instruction 191, "Inspection of the Implementation of Mitigation Strategies and Spent Fuel Pool Instrumentation Orders and Emergency Preparedness Communication/Staffing/Multi-Unit Dose Assessment Plans," starting on September 26 of this year.

In Staff Requirements Memorandum – SECY 16-0009, "Recommendations Resulting from the Integrated Prioritization and Re-Baselining of Agency Activities," the Commission approved the NRC staff recommendation to discontinue the formal mid-cycle assessment process beginning in calendar year 2017. This will be the final mid-cycle assessment letter. The staff will continue to conduct quarterly assessment meetings and communicate changes in the assessment of licensee performance in accordance with the guidance in Inspection Manual Chapter 0305, "Operating Reactor Assessment Program."

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Letter to Charles Arnone from Eric Duncan dated August 31, 2016

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR PALISADES NUCLEAR PLANT
(REPORT 05000255/2016005)

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Palisades
Inspection / Activity Plan
09/01/2016 - 06/30/2018

Unit Number	Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
	Start	End			
			ISFSI - ISFSI OPERATION - SCHEDULE DEPENDENT		2
1	02/01/2016	09/23/2016	IP 60854.1	Preoperational Testing of Independent Spent Fuel Storage Facility Installation at Operating Plants	
1	09/26/2016	10/22/2016	IP 60855.1	Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants	
			TI191 - FLEX/MITIGATING STRATEGIES/SFPI		4
1	09/26/2016	09/30/2016	IP 2515/191	Inspection of Licensee's Responses to Order EA-12-049, EA-12-051 & EP Info Request March 12, 2012	
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
1	11/28/2016	12/02/2016	IP 71124.08	Radioactive Solid Waste Processing and Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, and Transportation	
			OL PREP - INIT EXAM/FEB. 2017		4
1	01/16/2017	01/20/2017	W90358	OL - INITIAL EXAM - 2017 JAN-FEB - PALISADES	
			ISI - INSERVICE INSPECTION		1
1	04/23/2017	05/23/2017	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		2
1	05/01/2017	05/05/2017	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
1	05/01/2017	05/05/2017	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		2
1	07/17/2017	07/21/2017	IP 71124.05	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	
1	07/17/2017	07/21/2017	IP 71124.06	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment	
1	07/17/2017	07/21/2017	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
			BI EP - EP BASELINE INSPECTION / PI VERIFICATION		1
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	
			BI CDBI - COMPONENT DESIGN BASIS INSPECTION		6
1	10/30/2017	12/01/2017	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection	
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
1	11/13/2017	11/17/2017	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
			BI FIRE - FIRE PROTECTION INSPECTION AND BAG TRIP		3
1	03/05/2018	04/06/2018	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]	
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
1	02/12/2018	02/16/2018	IP 71124.08	Radioactive Solid Waste Processing and Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, and Transportation	
			EP - EP EXERCISE/PI VERIFICATION		2
1	04/23/2018	04/27/2018	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation	

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

Palisades
Inspection / Activity Plan
09/01/2016 - 06/30/2018

Unit Number	Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
	Start	End			
EP - EP EXERCISE/PI VERIFICATION					
1	04/23/2018	04/27/2018	IP 7111406	Drill Evaluation	2
1	04/23/2018	04/27/2018	IP 7111408	Exercise Evaluation – Scenario Review	
1	04/23/2018	04/27/2018	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
PI&R - BIENNIAL PI&R INSPECTION					
1	04/23/2018	05/11/2018	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	4
BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION					
1	05/21/2018	05/25/2018	IP 71124.07	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program	1

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This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.