

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION – REGION III

February 15, 2013

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE – PNO-III-13-002

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

Palisades Nuclear Plant
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
Covert, Michigan
Docket: 05000255
License: DPR-20

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: PALISADES SHUTDOWN DUE TO LEAKAGE FROM THE COMPONENT COOLING WATER (CCW) SYSTEM

On February 15, 2013, Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc., notified the NRC that operators at the Palisades plant had commenced plant shut down at approximately 1:00 p.m. (EST) to repair a leak associated with the E-54A heat exchanger in the CCW system. The leakage is possibly the result of a damaged tube in the heat exchanger. The CCW System provides a heat removal path for safety related components during events or transients. The CCW System serves as an interface and a barrier between potentially radioactive systems and the Service Water System, a system connected to Lake Michigan. The leak that occurred was between the CCW system and the service water system. This non-radioactive leakage was released to the environment through the service water system. There was no breach between the CCW system and the systems containing radioactive water.

At the point of the shutdown, leakage within the heat exchanger was approximately 35 gallons per hour (gph) and had been gradually increasing. The NRC has been monitoring the increased trend in the leakage by reviewing documentation and observing troubleshooting activities in the field for the past several days. The licensee declared the 'A' CCW heat exchanger inoperable at 8:30 p.m. (EST) on February 14 when they identified it to be the source of the leak. The Technical Specifications allow 72 hours to repair an inoperable CCW heat exchanger. However, a plant shutdown was required since repairs could not be completed with the plant at power. No other systems were affected by the increase in leakage. There was no danger to the public at any time. The NRC Resident Inspectors were present during the shutdown and are monitoring plant activities.

The NRC will continue to evaluate the event, including inspection activities, repair activities and corrective actions. An additional inspector will be dispatched to supplement the resident inspectors in their evaluation of the testing and repair activities.

The licensee is currently developing an inspection and repair plan. The plant will be placed in cold shutdown to conduct the repairs. The NRC has no immediate safety concerns with this issue.

The State of Michigan has been notified.

Any meeting summaries of the discussions between the NRC and licensee regarding the leak will be available through the NRC's public documents system at <http://adams.nrc.gov/wba/> within 30 days.

The information in this preliminary notification is current as of 4:00 p.m. (EST) on February 15, 2013. This information has been reviewed with plant management.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML13046A404

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