



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

March 2, 2016

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

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR PALISADES NUCLEAR PLANT
(REPORT 05000255/2015006)

Dear Mr. Vitale:

On February 10, 2016, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed its end-of-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 January 1, 2015, through December 31, 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 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.

For the first three quarters of 2015, Palisades Nuclear Plant was in the Regulatory Response Column of the NRC's ROP Action Matrix due to a White performance issue in the Occupational Radiation Safety Cornerstone. The NRC staff completed Inspection Procedure (IP) 95001, "Inspection for One or Two White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area," on September 3, 2015 as documented in NRC inspection report 05000255/2015011 (ADAMS Accession Number ML15289A262). Palisades Nuclear Plant returned to the Licensee Response Column on October 1, 2015.

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 last 9 months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the mid-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.

The NRC inspection schedule includes a biennial inspection conducted in accordance with Inspection Procedure 71152, "Problem Identification and Resolution," and a triennial inspection conducted in accordance with Inspection Procedure 71111.17T, "Evaluations of Changes, Tests, and Experiments and Permanent Plant Modifications." The NRC also plans to conduct several infrequently performed inspection activities related to (1) the operation of the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) using IP 60856, "Review of 10 CFR 72.212(b) Evaluations," IP 60854.1, "Preoperational Testing of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Facility Installations at Operating Plants," and IP 60855.1, "Operation of an ISFSI Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants;" (2) follow-up on previously documented violation involving inaccurate information provided to the NRC using Inspection Procedure 92702, "Follow-up on Traditional Enforcement Actions Including Violations, Deviations, Confirmatory Action Letters, Confirmatory Orders, and Alternative Dispute Resolution Confirmatory Orders;" and (3) spent fuel pool operation using Inspection Procedure 60715, "Spent Fuel Pool Safety at Operating Reactors."

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." This Order 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." This Order 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 was completed for Palisades Nuclear Plant and the information gathered will aid staff in development of the 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 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."

In accordance with 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).

A. Vitale

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Please contact John Jandovitz at 630-829-9763 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:
Inspection Plan

cc: Distribution via LISTSERV®

Please contact John Jandovitz at 630-829-9763 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Patrick L. Loudon, Director
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Palisades
Inspection / Activity Plan
03/01/2016 - 12/31/2017

Unit Number	Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
	Start	End			
			ISFSI - ISFSI PREOP TESTING		2
1	03/01/2016	04/30/2016	IP 60854.1	Preoperational Testing of Independent Spent Fuel Storage Facility Installation at Operating Plants	
1	04/01/2016	05/30/2016	IP 60855.1	Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants	
			PI&R - BIENNIAL PI&R INSPECTION		4
1	03/21/2016	04/08/2016	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	
			ISFSI - REVIEW OF 72.212 REPORT		1
1	04/01/2016	04/29/2016	IP 60856	Review of 10 CFR 72.212(b) Evaluations	
			BI EP - EP EXERCISE INSPECTION/ PI VERIFICATION		5
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	
			ISFSI - ISFSI OPERATION - SCHEDULE DEPENDENT		2
1	05/01/2016	06/30/2016	IP 60855.1	Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants	
			ENG - REVIEW OF 50.59 SL III VIOLATION		1
1	06/06/2016	06/10/2016	IP 92702	Followup On Corrective Actions For Violations And Deviations	
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
1	06/20/2016	06/24/2016	IP 71124.07	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program	
			ENG BI - MODIFICATIONS / 50.59 INSPECTION		3
1	06/27/2016	07/15/2016	IP 7111117T	Evaluations of Changes, Tests, and Experiments and Permanent Plant Modifications	
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
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	
			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	
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
1	02/13/2017	02/17/2017	IP 71124.05	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	

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

Palisades
Inspection / Activity Plan
03/01/2016 - 12/31/2017

Unit Number	Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
	Start	End			
			ISI - INSERVICE INSPECTION		1
1	04/23/2017	05/23/2017	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
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	
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
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	

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