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Réseau Sortir du nucléaire > Informez

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25 septembre 2011

Etats-Unis : Palisades : Chute d'une pièce métallique

Suite à une opération de maintenance sur un panneau de commande, la chute d'une pièce métallique a engendré un court-circuit. Ce défaut électrique a arrêté le réacteur, coupé la moitié des indicateurs de la salle de commande, enclenché des pompes de secours... Toutes ces actions sont survenues alors que les conditions réelles du réacteur ne le justifiaient pas.

Available in english only.

NRC BEGINS SPECIAL INSPECTION AT PALISADES NUCLEAR PLANT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has started a Special Inspection to review the circumstances around the work activities that led to a reactor shutdown on Sept. 25 at the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant. The plant is operated by Entergy and is located in Covert, Mich., about 70 miles southwest of Grand Rapids. The issue involved plant workers who were performing maintenance activities on an electrical panel when a small metal piece located inside the breaker panel came into contact with another metal piece and caused an arc. This resulted in a series of electrical issues that caused the plant to shut down and sent signals to multiple plant systems causing certain safety pumps to start and some safety valves to reposition. The plant shut down safely and will remain shutdown until plant workers determine what happened and resolve the issues. No workers were injured from this event. "The plant is in a safe shutdown condition but we have a number of questions about the complexity of the series of events that led to the reactor trip and want to better understand the actions taken by the plant staff before the reactor shutdown and in response to the event," said NRC Region III Administrator Mark Satorius. The special inspection team began work on Tuesday and will review the sequence of events, evaluate the facts and circumstances, and review the plants actions surrounding the automatic reactor shutdown. The team will also review the plant's evaluation of what happened, their corrective actions, and determine if there are any lessons to be learned from the event. The NRC's special inspection report will be available within 45 days of the inspection's completion through the NRC RIII Office of Public Affairs or through the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) at the NRC website. ###

<https://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1127/ML11271A164.pdf>