

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 4, 1994

SECY-94-267, "Status of Reactor Pressure Vessel Issues"

In Commission Paper SECY-94-267, "Status of Reactor Pressure Vessel Issues," the staff indicated that the Palisades reactor pressure vessel would reach the pressurized thermal shock (PTS) screening criteria in the year 2004. We also indicated that the licensee was gathering additional materials properties data from its retired steam generators (the welds in the retired steam generators were fabricated using the same materials as used in the fabrication of the limiting Palisades reactor vessel beltline welds) and the results of these tests could change the date when the plant will reach the PTS screening criteria.

During telephone conversations with the licensee on November 1 and 2, 1994, the staff was informed of preliminary data from the retired steam generators that indicates the Palisades reactor pressure vessel could reach the PTS screening criteria earlier than 2004. The licensee is continuing to evaluate the new data and to gather additional materials properties from its retired steam generators. If the preliminary data are confirmed, the plant would reach the PTS screening criteria at the next outage in May 1995. A meeting between the staff and the licensee has been tentatively scheduled for November 18, 1994, to discuss the test results.