

May 15, 2000

Mr. Nathan L. Haskell  
Director, Licensing and Performance Assessment  
Palisades Plant  
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway  
Covert, MI 49043

SUBJECT: PALISADES PLANT - NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF  
AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE AND OPPORTUNITY  
FOR HEARING (TAC NO. MA8753)

Dear Mr. Haskell:

The Commission has requested the Office of the Federal Register to publish the enclosed "Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to Facility Operating License and Opportunity for A Hearing." This notice relates to your application for amendment dated April 27, 2000, to change the expiration date of the operating license to 40 years from the date of issuance of the license rather than the date of the construction permit.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Darl S. Hood, Senior Project Manager, Section 1  
Project Directorate III  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-255

Enclosure: Notice

cc w/encl: See next page

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DATE	5/10/00	5/10/00	5/11/00

**ACCESSION NO. ML003714743**

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Palisades Plant

cc:

Mr. Thomas J. Palmisano  
Site Vice President  
Palisades Plant  
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway  
Covert, MI 49043

Mr. Robert A. Fenech, Senior Vice  
President  
Nuclear, Fossil, and Hydro Operations  
Consumers Energy Company  
212 West Michigan Avenue  
Jackson, MI 49201

Arunas T. Udrys, Esquire  
Consumers Energy Company  
212 West Michigan Avenue  
Jackson, MI 49201

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
801 Warrenville Road  
Lisle, IL 60532-4351

Jerry Sarno, Supervisor  
Covert Township  
P. O. Box 35  
Covert, MI 49043

Office of the Governor  
P. O. Box 30013  
Lansing, MI 48909

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Resident Inspector's Office  
Palisades Plant  
27782 Blue Star Memorial Highway  
Covert, MI 49043

Drinking Water and Radiological  
Protection Division  
Michigan Department of  
Environmental Quality  
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Lansing, MI 48909-8130

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P.O. Box 30212  
Lansing, MI 48909

Mr. Don Sappanos, Sr.  
278 Dyckman Avenue  
South Haven, MI 49090

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY

DOCKET NO. 50- 255

NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT TO  
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE AND OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. DPR-20, issued to Consumers Energy Company (the licensee) for operation of the Palisades Plant located in Van Buren County, Michigan.

The proposed amendment would change the expiration date of the operating license to 40 years from the date of issuance of the license rather than the date of the construction permit. Specifically, the proposed amendment would change the expiration date of Palisades Plant Facility Operating License No. DPR-20, as stated in License Condition 2.H of the Amended Facility Operating License from "midnight on March 14, 2007" to "midnight on March 24, 2011."

Before issuance of the proposed license amendment, the Commission will have made findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act) and the Commission's regulations.

By June 16, 2000, the licensee may file a request for a hearing with respect to issuance of the amendment to the subject facility operating license and any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding and who wishes to participate as a party in the proceeding must file a written request for a hearing and a petition

for leave to intervene. Requests for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene shall be filed in accordance with the Commission's "Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings" in 10 CFR Part 2. Interested persons should consult a current copy of 10 CFR 2.714 which is available at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and accessible electronically through the ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room link at the NRC Web site (<http://www.nrc.gov>). If a request for a hearing or petition for leave to intervene is filed by the above date, the Commission or an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, designated by the Commission or by the Chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, will rule on the request and/or petition; and the Secretary or the designated Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will issue a notice of hearing or an appropriate order.

As required by 10 CFR 2.714, a petition for leave to intervene shall set forth with particularity the interest of the petitioner in the proceeding, and how that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding. The petition should specifically explain the reasons why intervention should be permitted with particular reference to the following factors: (1) the nature of the petitioner's right under the Act to be made a party to the proceeding; (2) the nature and extent of the petitioner's property, financial, or other interest in the proceeding; and (3) the possible effect of any order which may be entered in the proceeding on the petitioner's interest. The petition should also identify the specific aspect(s) of the subject matter of the proceeding as to which petitioner wishes to intervene. Any person who has filed a petition for leave to intervene or who has been admitted as a party may amend the petition without requesting leave of the Board up to 15 days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, but such an amended petition must satisfy the specificity requirements described above.

Not later than 15 days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, a petitioner shall file a supplement to the petition to intervene which must include a list of the contentions which are sought to be litigated in the matter. Each contention must consist of a specific statement of the issue of law or fact to be raised or controverted. In addition, the petitioner shall provide a brief explanation of the bases of the contention and a concise statement of the alleged facts or expert opinion which support the contention and on which the petitioner intends to rely in proving the contention at the hearing. The petitioner must also provide references to those specific sources and documents of which the petitioner is aware and on which the petitioner intends to rely to establish those facts or expert opinion. Petitioner must provide sufficient information to show that a genuine dispute exists with the applicant on a material issue of law or fact. Contentions shall be limited to matters within the scope of the amendment under consideration. The contention must be one which, if proven, would entitle the petitioner to relief. A petitioner who fails to file such a supplement which satisfies these requirements with respect to at least one contention will not be permitted to participate as a party.

Those permitted to intervene become parties to the proceeding, subject to any limitations in the order granting leave to intervene, and have the opportunity to participate fully in the conduct of the hearing, including the opportunity to present evidence and cross-examine witnesses.

A request for a hearing or a petition for leave to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, by the above date. A copy of the petition should also be sent to the Office of the General

Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and to Arunas T. Udrys, Esquire, Consumers Energy Company, 212 West Michigan Avenue, Jackson, MI 49201, attorney for the licensee.

Nontimely filings of petitions for leave to intervene, amended petitions, supplemental petitions and/or requests for hearing will not be entertained absent a determination by the Commission, the presiding officer or the presiding Atomic Safety and Licensing Board that the petition and/or request should be granted based upon a balancing of the factors specified in 10 CFR 2.714(a)(1)(i)-(v) and 2.714(d).

If a request for a hearing is received, the Commission's staff may issue the amendment after it completes its technical review and prior to the completion of any required hearing if it publishes a further notice for public comment of its proposed finding of no significant hazards consideration in accordance with 10 CFR 50.91 and 50.92.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated April 27, 2000, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and accessible electronically through the ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room link at the NRC Web site (<http://www.nrc.gov>).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 11th day of May 2000.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

*/RA/*

Darl S. Hood, Senior Project Manager, Section 1  
Project Directorate III  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation