

May 24, 2000

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

SUBJECT: PALISADES PLANT - COMPLETION OF STAFF REVIEW OF RESPONSE TO
GENERIC LETTER 99-02, "LABORATORY TESTING OF NUCLEAR-GRADE
ACTIVATED CHARCOAL" (TAC NO. MA5823)

Dear Mr. Haskell:

On June 3, 1999, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Generic Letter (GL) 99-02, "Laboratory Testing of Nuclear-Grade Activated Charcoal," to all holders of operating licenses for nuclear power reactors, except those who have permanently ceased operations and have certified that fuel has been permanently removed from the reactor vessel.

The purpose of the GL was to:

- (1) Alert addressees that the NRC has determined that testing nuclear-grade activated charcoal to standards other than American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) D3803-1989, "Standard Test Method for Nuclear-Grade Activated Carbon," does not provide assurance for complying with the current licensing basis as it relates to the dose limits of General Design Criterion (GDC) 19 of Appendix A to Part 50 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) and Subpart A of 10 CFR Part 100.
- (2) Request that all addressees determine whether their Technical Specifications (TS) reference ASTM D3803-1989 for charcoal filter laboratory testing. Addressees whose TS do not reference ASTM D3803-1989 should either amend their TS to reference ASTM D3803-1989 or propose an alternative test protocol and provide the information discussed in the requested actions.
- (3) Alert addressees to the staff's intent to exercise enforcement discretion under certain conditions.
- (4) Request that all addressees send the NRC written responses to this generic letter relating to implementation of the requested actions.

In GL 99-02, the NRC staff established the following four groups of plants:

- (1) Plants in compliance with their TS that test in accordance with ASTM D3803-1989,
- (2) Plants in compliance with their TS that test in accordance with a test protocol other than

ASTM D3803-1989,

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- (3) Plants not in compliance with their TS that test in accordance with ASTM D3803-1989, and
- (4) Plants not in compliance with their TS that test in accordance with a test protocol other than ASTM D3803-1989.

In response to GL 99-02, you provided letters dated November 15, 1999, and February 11, 2000, for the Palisades Plant. Your letters indicated that your facility is a Group 1 plant. The NRC staff has reviewed your response and has concluded that all requested information has been provided; therefore, we consider GL 99-02 to be closed for your facility. We thank you for your prompt and complete response.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (301) 415-3049.

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

cc: See next page

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- (3) Plants not in compliance with their TS that test in accordance with ASTM D3803-1989, and
- (4) Plants not in compliance with their TS that test in accordance with a test protocol other than ASTM D3803-1989.

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