November 8, 2001

Mr. Douglas E. Cooper
Site Vice President
Palisades Plant
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway
Covert, MI 49043-9530

SUBJECT: PALISADES PLANT - BULLETIN 2001-01, "CIRCUMFERENTIAL CRACKING OF REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL HEAD PENETRATION NOZZLES," RESPONSES (TAC NO. MB2646)

Dear Mr. Cooper:

On August 3, 2001, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff issued Bulletin 2001-01, "Circumferential Cracking of Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles," to holders of operating licenses for pressurized-water reactors (PWRs) requesting that they provide information related to the structural integrity of the reactor pressure vessel head penetration (VHP) nozzles for their respective facilities, including the extent of VHP nozzle leakage and cracking that has been found to date, the inspections and repairs that have been undertaken to satisfy applicable regulatory requirements, and the basis for concluding that their plans for future inspections will ensure compliance with applicable regulatory requirements. You were requested to provide your response to Item 1 of the Bulletin within 30 days of its issuance.

You provided your response by letter dated August 31, 2001. The NRC staff finds that you have provided the requested information and that, based upon this information, there is reasonable assurance that the public health and safety will be maintained.

You are reminded that Item 5 of the bulletin requested the following information within 30 days after plant restart following the next refueling outage:

a. A description of the extent of VHP nozzle leakage and cracking detected at your plant, including the number, location, size, and nature of each crack detected;

b. If cracking is identified, a description of the inspections (type, scope, qualification requirements, and acceptance criteria), repairs, and other corrective actions you have taken to satisfy applicable regulatory requirements. This information is requested only if there are any changes from prior information submitted in accordance with this bulletin.

This completes our efforts under TAC No. MB2646. If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (301) 415-3049 or by e-mail at dsh@nrc.gov.

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

This completes our efforts under TAC No. MB2646. If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (301) 415-3049 or by e-mail at dsh@nrc.gov.

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

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Palisades Plant

cc:

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