NMC
Committed to Nuclear Excellence

Palisades Nuclear Plant
Operated by Nuclear Management Company, LLC

November 20, 2001

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555-0001

DOCKET 50-255 - LICENSE DPR-20 - PALISADES NUCLEAR PLANT
REPLY TO NOTICE OF VIOLATION

By letter dated October 26, 2001, the NRC transmitted a Notice Of Violation to Nuclear Management Company, LLC. The violation was identified during the Triennial Fire Protection Inspection conducted from July 9, 2001 through August 17, 2001 (NRC Inspection Report No. 50-255/01-08 (DRS)). The violation concerns smoke detector spacing in the northwest portion of the cable spreading room. Specifically, the detector spacing is inadequate to quickly detect a fire due to ceiling height, configuration of cable trays, the location of a ventilation system between the detector and combustible materials at the floor level, and forced airflow in the room. This letter provides the reply to the Notice Of Violation.

Nuclear Management Company, LLC, concurs with the violation. The as-installed smoke detector spacing in the northwest portion of the cable spreading room resulted from insufficient application of engineering judgment and documentation of its use in consideration of applicable National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) codes.

As an interim compensatory measure, hourly fire tours were initiated and remain in place for the cable spreading room.

All fire areas with fire detection systems required by 10 CFR 50, Appendix R, will undergo a code compliance review and walkdown. Any fire detection system deficiencies resulting from this assessment will be incorporated into an integrated modification plan that will consider both code compliance and obsolescence issues with the fire detection systems. Modification of the fire detection system in the cable spreading room will be given the highest priority in the integrated plan.

The fire detection system in the cable spreading room will be modified to restore full compliance with applicable NFPA codes by December 31, 2002.

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SUMMARY OF COMMITMENTS

This letter contains one new commitment and no revisions to existing commitments. The new commitment is as follows:

> The fire detection system in the cable spreading room will be modified to restore full compliance with applicable NFPA codes by December 31, 2002.

Daniel J. Malone
Plant General Manager

CC Regional Administrator, USNRC, Region III
Project Manager, USNRC, NRR
NRC Resident Inspector – Palisades