

DEC 03 1976

Docket No. 50-255

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Consumers Power Company
 ATTN: Mr. R. B. Sewell
 Nuclear Licensing Administrator
 212 West Michigan Avenue
 Jackson, Michigan 49201

Gentlemen:

The Commission has filed the enclosed "Notice of Proposed Issuance of Amendment to Facility Operating License" with the Office of the Federal Register for publication. This notice relates to your request dated November 16, 1976, for approval to amend License No. DPR-20 to allow more fuel to be stored at the Palisades Plant by modifying the storage racks in the spent fuel pool.

Sincerely,
 Original signed by

T. V. Wambach

A. Schwencer, Chief
 Operating Reactors Branch #1
 Division of Operating Reactors

Enclosure:
 Federal Register Notice

cc w/enclosure:
 See next page

7 *Cons/1*

OFFICE >	DOR:ORB-1	DOR:ORB-1	OELD	DOR:ORB-1	
SURNAME >	SMSheppard	GZech:esp	<i>B. M. Gordon</i>	<i>A. Schwencer</i>	
DATE >	11/24/76	11/26/76	11/1/76	12/03/76	

December 3, 1976

cc: M. I. Miller, Esquire
Isham, Lincoln & Beale
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One First National Plaza
Chicago, Illinois 60670

J. L. Bacon, Esquire
Consumers Power Company
212 West Michigan Avenue
Jackson, Michigan 49201

Paul A. Perry, Secretary
Consumers Power Company
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Jackson, Michigan 49201

Myron M. Cherry, Esquire
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Kalamazoo, Michigan 49006

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Township Supervisor
Covert Township
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Mr. John D. Beck (2 cys)
Division of Intergovernmental
Relations
Executive Office of the Governor
Lewis Cass Building, 2nd Floor
Lansing, Michigan 48913

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. 50-255

CONSUMERS POWER COMPANY

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT
TO PROVISIONAL OPERATING LICENSE

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

The amendment would change the license to allow more fuel to be stored at the Palisades Plant by modifying the storage racks in the spent fuel pool. The proposed modifications would increase the storage capacity from 276 to 798 assemblies by replacing the existing storage racks with those of a design capable of accommodating an increased number of assemblies in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated November 16, 1976.

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

By January 12, 1977, the licensee may file a request for a hearing and any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding may file a request for a hearing in the form of a petition for leave to intervene with respect to the issuance of the amendment to the subject provisional operating license. . Petitions for leave to intervene must be

filed under oath or affirmation in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.714 of 10 CFR Part 2 of the Commission's regulations. A petition for leave to intervene must set forth the interest of the petitioner in the proceeding, how that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding, and the petitioner's contentions with respect to the proposed licensing action. Such petitions must be filed in accordance with the provisions of this FEDERAL REGISTER notice and Section 2.714, and must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D. C. 20555, Attention: Docketing and Service Section, by the above date. A copy of the petition and/or request for a hearing should be sent to the Executive Legal Director, U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D. C. 20555, and to M. I. Miller, Esquire, Isham, Lincoln & Beale, Suite 4200, One First National Plaza, Chicago, Illinois 60670 and J. L. Bacon, Esquire, Consumers Power Company, 212 West Michigan Avenue, Jackson, Michigan 49201, the attorneys for the licensee.

A petition for leave to intervene must be accompanied by a supporting affidavit which identifies the specific aspect or aspects of the proceeding as to which intervention is desired and specifies with particularity the facts on which the petitioner relies as to both his interest and his contentions with regard to each aspect on which intervention is requested. Petitions stating contentions relating only to matters outside the Commission's jurisdiction will be denied.

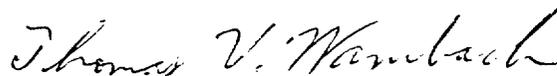
All petitions will be acted upon by the Commission or licensing board, designated by the Commission or by the Chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel. Timely petitions will be considered to determine whether a hearing should be noticed or another appropriate order issued regarding the disposition of the petitions.

In the event that a hearing is held and a person is permitted to intervene, he becomes a party to the proceeding and has a right to participate fully in the conduct of the hearing. For example, he may present evidence and examine and cross-examine witnesses.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated November 16, 1976, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20555 and at the Kalamazoo Public Library, 315 South Rose Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49006.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 3rd day of December 1976.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Thomas V. Wambach, Acting Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #1
Division of Operating Reactors

PRELIMINARY DETERMINATIONNOTICING OF PROPOSED LICENSING AMENDMENT

LICENSEE: Consumers Power Company - Palisades Plant

REQUEST FOR: Increase Palisades spent fuel storage capacity from 279 to 798 fuel assemblies.

REQUEST DATE: November 16, 1976

PROPOSED ACTION: (X) Pre-notice Recommended

() Post-notice Recommended

() Determination delayed pending completion of Safety Evaluation

BASIS FOR DECISION: The proposed modification would increase the total number of fuel assemblies capable of being stored from 279 to 798 assemblies. This increased storage would be made possible through closer spacing of fuel assemblies utilizing B₄C neutron absorber plates to ensure subcriticality.

The introduction of B₄C neutron absorber plates to maintain $k_{eff} < 0.95$ for the closer spaced fuel assemblies is an unreviewed safety question for this facility.

An increase in the number of stored spent fuel assemblies would result in an additional decay heat load on the spent fuel pool cooling system which could result in a reduced margin of cooling capability.

The potential for a fuel cask drop accident or an accident involving the dropping of other heavy objects into the spent fuel pool are unresolved safety issues at Palisades Plant. The increased fuel density in the pool would increase the potential consequences of such accidents.

The new fuel racks will be installed with spent fuel present in the pool. This construction near spent fuel is an unreviewed safety question for this facility.

In view of the above, the proposed modifications are considered to involve a significant hazards consideration and a pre-notice is therefore recommended.

- PROPOSED NEPA ACTION:
- EIS Required
 - Negative Declaration (ND) and Environmental Impact Appraisal (EIA) Required
 - No EIS, ND or EIA Required
 - Determination delayed pending completion of EIA

BASIS FOR DECISION: On September 16, 1975, the Commission announced (40 FR 42801) its intent to prepare a generic environmental impact statement on handling and storage of spent fuel from light water power reactors. In this notice, the Commission also announced its conclusion that it would not be in the public interest, to defer all licensing actions intended to ameliorate a possible shortage of spent fuel storage capacity pending completion of the generic environmental impact statement. The Commission directed that in the consideration of any such proposed licensing action, specific factors should be applied, balanced, and weighed in the context of the required environmental impact appraisal. Thus, it is appropriate to prepare an ND and EIA for this action. This has been done for all spent fuel expansion requests.

No EIS is required since the proposed modification is not a major action that could significantly affect the quality of the human environment. It does not involve a change in the type or quantity of effluents or a change in authorized power level.

CONCURRENCES:

DATE:

1. *Gary Zech* 11/26/76
Gary Zech
2. *F. V. Wambach* 12/03/76
for A. Schwencer
3. *Karl R. Goller* 12/2/76
Karl R. Goller
4. *Bernard M. Gordenich* 12/1/76
OELD