

February 8, 1983

Docket No. 50-255
LS05-83-02-030

Mr. David J. Vandewalle
Nuclear Licensing Administrator
Consumers Power Company
1945 West Parnall Road
Jackson, Michigan 49201

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Dear Mr. Vandewalle:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Exemption to certain requirements of Section 50.48 and Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 in response to your letter dated July 1, 1982. This Exemption pertains to the requirements for a fixed suppression system in the control room for the Palisades Plant.

A copy of the Exemption is being filed with the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Original signed by/

Dennis M. Crutchfield, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #5
Division of Licensing

Enclosure:
Exemption

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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Mr. David J. Vandewalle

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February 8, 1983

cc

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Federal Activities Branch
Region V Office
ATTN: Regional Radiation Representative
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Resident Inspector
c/o U. S. NRC
Palisades Plant
Route 2, P. O. Box 155
Covert, Michigan 49043

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
 NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of)
)
 CONSUMERS POWER COMPANY) Docket No. 50-255
)
 (Palisades Plant))

EXEMPTION

I.

The Consumers Power Company (the licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating License No. DPR-20 which authorizes operation of the Palisades Plant. This license provides, among other things, that it is subject to all rules, regulations and Orders of the Commission now or hereafter in effect.

The facility comprises one pressurized water reactor at the licensee's site located in Van Buren County, Michigan.

II.

On November 19, 1980, the Commission published a revised Section 10 CFR 50.48 and a new Appendix R to 10 CFR 50 regarding fire protection features of nuclear power plants (45 F.R. 76602). The revised Section 50.48 and Appendix R became effective on February 17, 1981. Section III of Appendix R contains fifteen subsections, lettered A through O, each of which specifies requirements for a particular aspect of the fire protection features at a nuclear power plant. One of these fifteen subsections III.G., is the subject of this exemption request. III.G. specifies detailed requirements for fire protection of the equipment

used for safe shutdown by means of separation and barriers (III.G.2). If the requirements for separation and barriers could not be met in an area, alternative safe shutdown capability, independent of that area and equipment in that area, was required (III.G.3).

By letter dated July 1, 1982 the licensee requested an exemption from the requirements of Section III.G.3b to the extent that it requires the installation of a fixed fire suppression system in the control room. In support of this request the licensee notes the existing fire protection features and the fact that the control room is continuously manned.

III.

We have reviewed the licensee's exemption request. The control room is enclosed by walls, floor and ceiling of reinforced concrete construction, sufficient to achieve a 3-hour fire rating. Openings into the room are protected by fire doors, dampers and fire rated penetration seals. Safe shutdown equipment in the room consists of the main control consoles and cabinets, including redundant control cables, indicating instruments and relays.

Existing fire protection consists of a smoke detection system located throughout the room. This protection is supplemented by portable fire extinguishers and manual hose stations. The fire loading in the control room is low. The room is continuously manned. In the event the control room becomes uninhabitable due to smoke or heat, an alternate capability to achieve safe shutdown, outside the control room, exists.

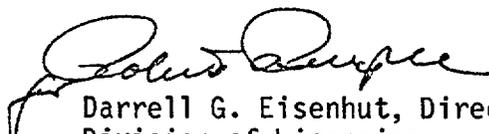
The intent of Section III.G is to require an acceptable level of fire safety to assure the maintenance of safe shutdown capability. Because the fire hazard is light, the control room is continuously manned, and fire extinguishing equipment is located in the control room, there is reasonable assurance that a fire would be promptly extinguished. Therefore, the installation of a fixed fire suppression system will not significantly increase the level of fire protection in the control room and the exemption requested by the licensee should be granted.

IV.

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12, an exemption is authorized by law and will not endanger life or property or common defense and security and is otherwise in the public interest and hereby grants an exemption from the requirements of Section III.G.3b of Appendix R to 10 CFR 50 to the extent that it requires the installation of a fixed fire suppression system in the control room at Palisades.

The NRC staff has determined that the granting of this Exemption will not result in any significant environmental impact and that pursuant to 10 CFR 51.5(d)(4) an environmental impact statement or negative declaration and environmental impact appraisal need not be prepared in connection with this action.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


Darrell G. Eisenhut, Director
Division of Licensing

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland
this 8th day of February, 1983.