

Docket No. 50-255

June 25, 1985

LS05-85-06-032

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

Dear Mr. Vandewalle:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ON APPENDIX R EXEMPTIONS

Re: Palisades Plant

Enclosed is a copy of a "Notice of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your information. This notice relates to your application dated July 20, 1984, for exemption from the requirements of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 for the Palisades Plant.

The notice has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

John A. Zwolinski, Chief  
Operating Reactors Branch No. 5  
Division of Licensing

Enclosure:  
Notice

cc w/enclosure:  
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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

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The notice has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. A. Zwolinski".

John A. Zwolinski, Chief  
Operating Reactors Branch No. 5  
Division of Licensing

Enclosure:  
Notice

cc w/enclosure:  
See next page

Mr. David J. Vandewalle  
Consumers Power Company

Palisades Plant

cc  
M. I. Miller, Esquire  
Isham, Lincoln & Beale  
51st Floor  
Three First National Plaza  
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Nuclear Facilities and Environmental  
Monitoring Section Office  
Division of Radiological Health  
P. O. Box 30035  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Mr. Thomas A. McNish, Secretary  
Consumers Power Company  
212 West Michigan Avenue  
Jackson, Michigan 49201

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

Regional Administrator  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region III  
799 Roosevelt Road  
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

Jerry Sarno  
Township Supervisor  
Covert Township  
36197 M140 Highway  
Covert, Michigan 49043

Office of the Governor  
Room 1 - Capitol Building  
Lansing, Michigan 48913

Palisades Plant  
ATTN: Mr. Joseph F. Firlit  
General Manager  
27780 Blue Star Memorial Hwy.  
Covert, Michigan 49043

Resident Inspector  
c/o U.S. NRC  
Palisades Plant  
27782 Blue Star Memorial Hwy.  
Covert, Michigan 49043

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONCONSUMERS POWER COMPANYDOCKET NO. 50-255ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND  
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the technical requirements of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 to Consumers Power Company (the licensee), for the Palisades Plant, located in Van Buren County, Michigan.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The exemption would provide an alternative to the requirement to separate redundant cables and equipment and associated non-safety circuits of redundant trains installed inside containment by a horizontal distance of more than 20 feet with no intervening combustibles or fire hazards.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption is needed because the features described in the licensee's request regarding the existing level of fire protection and proposed modifications at the plant are the most practical method of meeting the intent of Appendix R and literal compliance would not significantly enhance the fire protection capability.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption would provide a degree of fire protection equivalent to that required by Appendix R such that there would be no increase in the risk of fires at this facility. Consequently, the probability of fires has not been increased and the post-fire radiological releases would not be

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*8507020489*

greater than previously determined. Neither does the proposed exemption otherwise affect radiological plant effluents. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with this proposed exemption.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed exemption involves features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since we have concluded that the environmental effects of the proposed action are negligible, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested exemptions. This would not reduce the environmental impacts associated with fire protection modifications and would result in a much larger expenditure of licensee resources to comply with the Commission's regulations.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action involves no use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement related to operation of the Palisades Plant.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for exemption dated July 20, 1984, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and at the Van Zoeren Library, Hope College, Holland, Michigan 49423.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 25th day of June 1985.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

  
Dennis M. Crutchfield, Assistant Director  
for Safety Assessment  
Division of Licensing

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Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since we have concluded that the environmental effects of the proposed action are negligible, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested exemptions. This would not reduce the environmental impacts of the integrity of safety <sup>associated with fire protection</sup> ~~of the integrity of safety~~ ~~resources to comply with~~ ~~being in violation of~~ ~~the Commission's~~ ~~regulations.~~ *modifications* *systems* *a much larger expenditure of*

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action involves no use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement related to operation of the Palisades Plant.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.