

August 25, 1987

Docket No. 50-255

Mr. Kenneth W. Berry
Director, Nuclear Licensing
Consumers Power Company
1945 West Parnall Road
Jackson, Michigan 49201

Dear Mr. Berry:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT -
APPENDIX J EXEMPTION (TAC NO. 62841)

Re: Palisades Plant

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your information. This notice relates to your application dated August 22, 1986, for an exemption from the requirements of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50 for the Palisades Plant.

The notice is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Original signed by *B. Gilbert for*

Thomas V. Wambach, Project Manager
Project Directorate III-1
Division of Reactor Projects - III, IV, V
& Special Projects

Enclosure:
Notice

cc w/enclosure:
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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 schedular requirements of Appendix J 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 of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Section III.A.6(b), to perform at each plant shutdown for refueling or approximately every 18 months, whichever occurs first, a Type A Containment Integrated Leak Rate Test until two consecutive tests meet the acceptance criteria, if two consecutive Type A tests performed in accordance with the normal schedule fail to meet the criteria. At Palisades, the containment has failed the last three Type A tests because of excess leakage penalties applied from the Type B and C tests for locally testable penetrations. The alternative that the licensee has proposed for the accelerated Type A testing is an accelerated Type B and C testing program, along with aggressive maintenance of these penetrations based on trending information and engineering evaluations of any problems encountered, since the previous Type A failures have always been attributable to the penetrations associated with the local Type B and C tests.

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The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption is needed because the licensee's proposed "Local Leak Rate Testing - Corrective Action Plan" described in the licensee's request is the most practical method of meeting the intent of Appendix J and literal compliance would not serve the underlying purpose of Appendix J and is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of Appendix J.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption would provide a degree of assurance of containment integrity equivalent to that required by Appendix J. Consequently, the probability of accidents has not been increased by this administrative change and the post-accident radiological releases would not be 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 a change in surveillance or inspection requirements. 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 the Commission has 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 exemption. This would not reduce the environmental impacts attributable to this facility and

would result in a 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 Commission's 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 August 22, 1986, 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 August 1987.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Albert W. De Agazio

Albert W. De Agazio, Acting Director
Project Directorate III-1
Division of Reactor Projects - III, IV, V
& Special Projects

Mr. Kenneth W. Berry
Consumers Power Company

Palisades Plant

cc:

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