November 5, 1986

Docket No. 50-255

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

Dear Mr. Berry:

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The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 99 to Provisional Operating License No. DPR-20 for the Palisades Plant. This amendment consists of changes to the Technical Specifications in response to your application dated August 20, 1979 and subsequently revised in mutual agreement between the NRC staff and your staff.

This amendment revises the surveillance requirements for the Westinghouse Electric Hydrogen Recombiners contained in Table 4.2.2, "Minimum Frequency for Equipment Tests", to those recommended for Westinghouse Electric Hydrogen Recombiners in NUREG-0212, Revision 2 "Combustion Engineering Standard Technical Specifications."

A copy of our related Safety Evaluation is also enclosed. The notice of issuance will be included in the Commission's biweekly Federal Register notice.

Sincerely,

/S/

Thomas V. Wambach, Project Manager
PWR Project Directorate #8
Division of PWR Licensing-B

Enclosures:
1. Amendment No. 99 to License No. DPR-20
2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosures:
See next page

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PBD#8	PBD#8	PBD#8	OGC-Bethesda	FOB	PBD#8
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11/4

10/30/86

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Health
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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

CONSUMERS POWER COMPANY

PALISADES PLANT

DOCKET NO. 50-255

AMENDMENT TO PROVISIONAL OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 99
License No. DPR-20

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:

   A. The application for amendment by Consumers Power Company (the licensee) dated August 20, 1979 complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;

   B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;

   C. There is reasonable assurance (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public; and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations;

   D. The issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and

   E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.

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2. Accordingly, the license is amended by changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment and Paragraph 3.B. of Provisional Operating License No. DPR-20 is hereby amended to read as follows:

   B. Technical Specifications

   The Technical Specifications contained in Appendices A and B, as revised through Amendment No. 99, are hereby incorporated in the license. The licensee shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications.

3. This license amendment is effective as of the date of its issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

for Thomas V. Wambach

Ashok C. Thadani, Director
PWR Project Directorate #8
Division of PWR Licensing-B

Attachment:
Changes to the Technical
Specifications

Date of Issuance: November 5, 1986

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 99

PROVISIONAL OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-20

DOCKET NO. 50-255

Revise Appendix A Technical Specifications by removing the page identified below and inserting the enclosed page. The revised page is identified by amendment number and contains marginal lines indicating the area of change.

REMOVE	INSERT
4-15a	4-15a

Table 4.2.2 (Contd)

Minimum Frequencies for Equipment Tests

11. Hydrogen Recombiners

Each hydrogen recombiner unit shall be demonstrated operable:

a. At least once per 6 months by verifying during a recombiner unit functional test that the minimum heater sheath temperature increases to $\geq$ 700°F* within 90 minutes. Upon reaching 700°F, increase power setting to maximum power for 2 minutes. Verify that the power meter reads $\geq$ 60 kW.

b. At least once per refueling cycle by:

1. Performing a channel calibration of all recombiner instrumentation and control circuits.

2. Verifying through a visual examination that there is no evidence of abnormal conditions within the recombiners (i.e., loose wiring or structural connections, deposits of foreign materials, etc.).

3. Verifying the integrity of all heater electrical circuits by performing a continuity and resistance to ground test immediately following the above required functional test. The resistance to ground for any heater element shall be $\geq$ 10,000 ohms.

*As measured by installed or portable temperature measuring instruments.

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 99 TO PROVISIONAL OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-20

CONSUMERS POWER COMPANY

PALISADES PLANT

DOCKET NO. 50-255

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated August 20, 1979, and modified in agreement with the licensee, Consumers Power Company (the licensee) proposed changes to the Technical Specifications (TS) of Facility Operating License No. DPR-20 for the Palisades Nuclear Generating Plant. The TS changes update the Surveillance Requirements of Table 4.2.2, "Minimum Frequency for Equipment Tests" to those recommended for Westinghouse Electric Hydrogen Recombiners in NUREG-0212, Revision 2, "Combustion Engineering Standard Technical Specification". Changes include revision of the recombiner unit functional test to insure operability, elimination of a redundant verification of the electrical lineup and revision of the required value of the heater element insulation resistance test from 1,000 ohms to 10,000 ohms.

It is also noted that the surveillance periodicity of item 11.b was changed by Amendment 81 from every 18 months to every refueling cycle. This change was submitted subsequent to the presently considered change and is considered applicable.

2.0 EVALUATION

Item 11.a of Table 4.2.2 currently requires the hydrogen recombiner units to reach 700°F within 90 minutes as a test of unit operability. This requirement in itself, however, fails in determining the operability of the units. As the licensee experienced first hand, the surveillance requirements could be satisfied with one power phase shorted to neutral. All three phases are required in order for the unit to produce enough heat to reach the hydrogen recombination range and be considered operational. Therefore, upon reaching 700°F by increasing the recombiner to maximum power setting for a short length of time and verifying that full power is achieved, all electrical phases are demonstrated operational, and the operability of the recombiner units is verified. If a single phase is non-operating, maximum power will be reduced by one-third. This change reflects vendor (Westinghouse) recommendations for verification of hydrogen recombiner operability, and is consistent with the staff approved guidance provided in CE Standard Technical Specifications. Therefore, the staff finds this change acceptable.

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The second change involves deletion of Item 11.b.1, Table 4.2.2. This surveillance requirement provides for the verification of bus alignment necessary to receive power from separate diesel generators. Since bus alignment is a function of plant design and breaker selection, and is already verified in the electrical distribution requirements of Technical Specification 3.7, the staff finds the deletion of this redundant requirement acceptable.

In the August 20, 1979 submittal, the licensee proposed to change Item 11.b.3 of Table 4.2.2 to limit examination of the recombiners to an external visual examination of the enclosures. The licensee, in response to NRC staff's concerns, has declined to pursue this request. Therefore, Item 11.b.3 of Table 4.2.2 remains unchanged and reflects the staff approved surveillance requirement provided in the CE Standard Technical Specifications.

The third change involves deletion of Item 11.b.4 of Table 4.2.2. The specification concerns the output of the heating units. Since guidance is provided in Item 11.a concerning heater outputs, and this guidance is considered sufficient as a sign of operability, the staff finds the deletion of this item acceptable.

In the August 20, 1979 submittal the licensee requested a modification to Item 11.b.5 of Table 4.2.2 that proposed to eliminate the resistance to ground test following the heatup test and the requirement that it be greater than or equal to 1000 ohms. Subsequently, the licensee, in response to NRC staff's concerns, declined to pursue this request and agreed that the value of 1000 ohms was too low to meet the intent of the specification, i.e. good insulation to ground. To meet this intent, the required value of the resistance to ground for any heater element is increased to greater than or equal to 10,000 ohms. The increased value of 10,000 ohms is indicative of a superior insulator and is consistent with the staff approved guidance provided in the CE Standard Technical Specifications. Therefore, the staff finds this change acceptable.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

This amendment involves a change in the installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20 or in a surveillance requirement. The staff has determined that the amendment involves no significant increase in the amounts, and no significant change in the types, of any effluents that may be released offsite, and that there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. The Commission has previously issued a proposed finding that this amendment involves no significant hazards consideration and there has been no public comment on such finding. Accordingly, this amendment meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b), no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of this amendment.

4.0 CONCLUSION

We have concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, and (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and the issuance of the amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Date: November 5, 1986

Principal Contributors: C. A. VanDenburgh
R. M. Perfetti