

November 7, 1988

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 (TACS NOS. 66901 AND 69281)

Enclosed for your information is a copy of an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact. This assessment relates to your request dated March 25, 1988, as supplemented June 17, 1988, and to your request dated September 1, 1988.

The first request relates to the Technical Specifications associated with the reactor protection system modification, operation with less than four reactor coolant pumps and steam generator tube differential pressure. This last item is not included in this action as it has been superseded by a subsequent request. The second request involved in this action relates to changes in the Technical Specifications for peaking factor and linear heat rate limits.

The assessment is being sent to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

*original signed by*

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

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc w/enclosure:  
See next page

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11/1/88

OGC  
11/2/88

*[Handwritten signatures and initials: a large signature, 'DFOL', and '11']*

*[Handwritten initials]*



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas Wambach".

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

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc w/enclosure:  
See next page

Mr. Kenneth W. Berry  
Consumers Power Company

Palisades Plant

cc:

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

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

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The proposed amendment would revise the provisions in the Technical Specifications (TSs) to add additional limitations to plant operation with less than four reactor primary coolant pumps operating; modify the reactor protection system setpoints, limiting conditions for operation and surveillance requirements to reflect the modifications being made to the reactor protection system; and revise the peaking factors and linear heat rate limits.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated March 25, 1988, as supplemented by a submittal dated June 17, 1988, and the licensee's application for amendment dated September 1, 1988.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed amendment is required in order to provide more operational margin to safety limits with a new reactor protection system installed during the present refueling outage, the Technical Specifications associated with the new system, additional limitations on operation with less than four reactor primary coolant pumps, and revised peaking factors and linear heat rate limits to reduce fluence on critical reactor welds.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed modifications to the reactor protection system and the revisions to the Technical Specifications. The reactor protection system modifications include a variable high power trip instead of the fixed high power trip at 106 percent of rated power. The variable high power trip will be no more than 10 percent above the existing power but no greater than 106 percent of rated power, 2350 Mwt. The modifications include a new thermal margin monitor that has inputs from the upper and lower power range neutron detectors so that the axial power distribution in the core can be factored into the thermal margin monitor. The previous thermal margin monitor used a fixed, conservative value for axial power distribution. The associated Technical Specifications, both limiting conditions for operation and surveillance requirements, ensure that this system is operable when required. The Technical Specification change for operation with less than four reactor primary coolant pumps in operation adds restrictions, not presently in the Technical Specifications, to preclude operation in a condition that could produce consequences greater than those determined from the analyses of design basis accidents. The change in peaking factors and linear heat rate are supported by accident reanalyses that demonstrate that the design basis limits continue to be met. Therefore, the proposed changes do not increase the probability or consequences of any accident, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that the proposed action would result in no significant radiological environmental impact.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed changes involve systems located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. They do not affect nonradiological plant effluents and have no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed amendment.

Notices of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment and Opportunity for Hearing in connection with this action were published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on July 6, 1988 (53 FR 25397) and September 27, 1988 (53 FR 37663). No request for hearing or petition for leave to intervene was filed following these notices.

Alternative to Proposed Action:

Since the Commission concluded that there are no significant environmental effects that would result from the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested amendment. This would not reduce environmental impacts of plant operation and would result in reduced operational flexibility.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Palisades Plant dated June 1972.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The Commission's staff reviewed the licensee's requests 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 license amendment.

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 amendment dated March 25, 1988, as supplemented June 17, 1988, and the application for amendment dated September 1, 1988, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the Van Zoeren Library, Hope College, Holland, Michigan 49423.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 7th day of November 1988.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

*Theodore R. Quay*

Theodore Quay, Acting Director  
Project Directorate III-1  
Division of Reactor Projects - III, IV, V  
& Special Projects  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation