

May 22, 1997

Mr. Thomas C. Bordine  
Licensing Manager  
Palisades Plant  
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway  
Covert, MI 49043

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT RELATED TO THE NAME CHANGE FROM CONSUMERS  
POWER COMPANY TO CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY FOR PALISADES PLANT  
(TAC NO. M98290)

Dear Mr. Bordine:

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No  
Significant Impact related to your application for amendment dated March 27,  
1997. The proposed amendment would revise the license to reflect the change  
in the licensees' name from Consumers Power Company to Consumers Energy  
Company.

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

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Robert G. Schaaf, Project Manager  
Project Directorate III-1  
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-255

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

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Mr. Thomas C. Bordine  
Consumers Power Company

Palisades Plant

cc:

Mr. Thomas J. Palmisano  
Site Vice President  
Palisades Plant  
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway  
Covert, Michigan 49043

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Resident Inspector's Office  
Palisades Plant  
27782 Blue Star Memorial Highway  
Covert, Michigan 49043

Mr. Robert A. Fenech, Sr Vice Pres  
Nuclear, Fossil, and Hydro Operations  
Consumers Energy Company  
212 West Michigan Avenue  
Jackson, Michigan 49201

Drinking Water and Radiological  
Protection Division  
Michigan Department of  
Environmental Quality  
3423 N. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd  
P. O. Box 30630 CPH Mailroom  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-8130

M. I. Miller, Esquire  
Sidley & Austin  
54th Floor  
One First National Plaza  
Chicago, Illinois 60603

Gerald Charnoff, Esquire  
Shaw, Pittman, Potts and Trowbridge  
2300 N Street, N. W.  
Washington DC 20037

Mr. Thomas A. McNish  
Vice President & Secretary  
Consumers Energy Company  
212 West Michigan Avenue  
Jackson, Michigan 49201

Michigan Department of Attorney  
General  
Special Litigation Division  
630 Law Building  
P.O. Box 30212  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

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

Mike McMullen [5]  
Environmental Review Coordinator  
EPA Region 5  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60604-3507

Regional Administrator, Region III  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
801 Warrenville Road  
Lisle, Illinois 60532-4351

Jerry Sarno  
Township Supervisor  
Covert Township  
36197 M-140 Highway  
Covert, Michigan 49043

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

April 1997

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

CONSUMERS POWER COMPANY

DOCKET NO. 50-255

PALISADES PLANT

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would revise the Facility Operating License No. DRP-20 and the Technical Specifications (TS) appended to Facility Operating License No. DPR-20 for the Palisades Plant. Specifically, the proposed action would amend the license to reflect the change in the licensee's name from Consumers Power Company to Consumers Energy Company.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated March 27, 1997.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is to revise the company name in the license to reflect the corporate name change that occurred on March 11, 1997.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed changes to the license and TS. According to the licensee, the name change will not

impact the existing ownership of the Palisades Plant or the existing entitlement to power and will not alter the existing antitrust license conditions applicable to CPCo or CPCo's ability to comply with these conditions or with any of its other obligations or responsibilities. As stated by the licensee, "The corporate existence continues uninterrupted, and all legal characteristics remain the same. Thus, there is no change in the ownership, State of incorporation, registered agent, registered office, directors, officers, rights or liabilities of the Company, nor is there a change in the function of the Company or the way in which it does business. The Company's financial responsibility for the Palisades Plant and its sources of funds to support the facility will remain the same. Further, this name change does not impact the Company's ability to comply with any of its obligations or responsibilities under the license." Therefore, the change will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there will be no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action is administrative in nature and does not involve any physical features of the plant. Thus, it does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

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.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on May 15, 1997, the staff consulted with the Michigan State official, Dennis Hahn, of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Drinking Water and Radiological Protection Division, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated March 27, 1997, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120

L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Van Wylen Library, Hope College, Holland, Michigan 49423.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 22nd day of May 1997.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert G. Schaaf", written in a cursive style.

Robert G. Schaaf, Project Manager  
Project Directorate III-1  
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation