NMC
Committed to Nuclear Excellence

Palisades Nuclear Plant
Operated by Nuclear Management Company, LLC

June 25, 2002

10 CFR 50.4

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555-0001

DOCKET 50-255 - LICENSE DPR-20 - PALISADES NUCLEAR PLANT
NRC BULLETIN 2002-01: REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL HEAD DEGRADATION AND REACTOR COOLANT PRESSURE BOUNDARY INTEGRITY - 15-DAY RESPONSE SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION
(TAC No. MB4562)

Nuclear Management Company, LLC (NMC) provided the subject 15-day bulletin response to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) by letter dated April 3, 2002. In a telephone conversation on June 20, 2002, NRC Staff members requested NMC to voluntarily provide the Staff with supplemental information that gives additional detail for two areas discussed in the response. The requested information is provided below.

The first area addresses requested item 1.A, "A summary of the reactor pressure vessel head inspection and maintenance programs that have been implemented at your plant." NMC responded, in part, by stating "... visual inspection of the entire upper reactor head surface was conducted in 1995. The permanent insulation was removed; a visual VT-2 examination of the reactor head penetrations was conducted;...." The additional detail provided here is that 100% of the reactor head penetrations were VT-2 examined from above.

The second area addresses requested item 1.C, "A description of any conditions identified (chemical deposits, head degradation) through the inspection and maintenance programs described in 1.A that could have led to degradation and the corrective actions taken to address such conditions." NMC responded, in part, by stating "Since 1995 there have been several instances of [Control Rod Drive Mechanism] CRDM leakage from mechanical seals and seal housings above the reactor vessel head." The additional detail provided here is that over the time period described and in every case, all of the subject leaks were repaired. Most recently, during the refueling outage conducted in 2001, 13 of 45 CRDM seal housings were replaced with housings of a new Inconel (Alloy 600) design. The remaining 32 seal housings were replaced (also with the new Inconel design) during the extended forced outage, which took place from June 2001 to January 2002.

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This letter contains no new commitments and no revisions to existing commitments.

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