



Docket No. 50-255

*** SAFEGUARDS INFORMATION ***

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

December 28, 1992

OK to
release
cover letter

Mr. Gerald Slade
General Manager, Palisades Plant
Consumers Power Company
27782 Blue Star Memorial Highway
Covert, Michigan 49043

Dear Mr. Slade:

SUBJECT: PALISADES PLANT - OPERATIONAL SAFEGUARDS RESPONSE EVALUATION
(TAC NO. M84792)

This letter conveys the results and conclusions of the Operational Safeguards Response Evaluation (OSRE) conducted by the NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation at the Palisades Plant from November 16 through 19, 1992. The OSRE team was composed of NRC personnel assisted by members of the U.S. Army Special Forces. One purpose of the OSRE program is to evaluate a licensee's ability to respond in a contingency to an external threat by focusing on the interactions between operations and security in establishing priorities for protection of equipment and on the defensive strategies used. The OSRE also includes a safety/safeguards interface review to assure that safeguards measures do not adversely affect safe operation of the facility.

The OSRE conclusions are documented in the enclosed report (Part I, Operational Safeguards Readiness Review; and Part II, Safety/Safeguards Interface Review). This enclosure, which contains safeguards information of a type specified in 10 CFR 73.21, will not be placed in the Public Document Room, and must be protected against unauthorized disclosure.

The drills, exercises, and demonstrations observed by the team and the results of interviews conducted by the team indicated weaknesses in some areas. Those weaknesses that the team considers to most warrant your attention are identified in the report as concerns.

The team concluded that effective provisions were in place to assure that safeguards measures did not adversely affect the safe operation of the plant. However, the team did make two observations regarding egress from two areas which you should review for any appropriate action.

The enclosed report does not convey any new regulatory requirement. Its findings have been considered with respect to your ability to meet the general performance objective and requirements of 10 CFR 73.55(a). We request that you review the report and provide a response to this office within 45 days

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Mr. G. Slade

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after receiving this letter. Your response should specifically address each of the concerns identified in the report. Except for those findings identified as observations, your response should include a discussion of why you believe corrective action is not warranted for any of those findings for which you do not intend to take action.

This letter affects one respondent and, therefore, is not subject to the Office of Management and Budget review under Public Law 96-511.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Jack W. Roe, Director
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Operational Safeguards Response
Evaluation
(Part I, Operational Safeguards
Readiness Review;
Part II, Safety/Safeguards
Interface Review)

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cc w/enclosure:
James K. Heller, SRI
USNRC
27782 Blue Star Memorial Highway
Covert, Michigan 49043

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