

March 2, 2004

Mr. Daniel J. Malone
Site Vice President
Palisades Nuclear Plant
Nuclear Management Company, LLC
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway
Covert, MI 49043-9530

SUBJECT: PALISADES NUCLEAR PLANT
CONFIRMATION OF INITIAL OPERATOR LICENSE EXAMINATIONS

Dear Mr. Malone:

In a letter dated September 22, 2003, your staff responded to NRC Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) 2003-14, "Preparation and Scheduling of Operator Licensing Examinations." An initial license examination was requested for the weeks of May 23, and May 30, 2005, and another initial license examination for the weeks of December 4, and December 11, 2006. The requested examination for May 2005 has been scheduled and a chief examiner assigned to that examination. The examination requested for December 2006 will be scheduled as we approach that date.

On-site validation of the examinations will occur at Palisades Nuclear Plant approximately 3 weeks before the examination administration date. In the unlikely event that we are unable to support the examinations during the scheduled weeks, we will inform you immediately upon discovery of such conditions and make arrangements to administer the examinations at a mutually acceptable date.

As indicated in your RIS response letter, your staff will develop the examinations. Please inform us if the number of candidates decreases below 10 as this will impact the examination schedule.

A supplementary letter will be sent to the training department approximately 120 days prior to the initial examination informing them of the chief examiner's name. The letter will also outline examination security expectations, list the materials required by the NRC to conduct the examination, reconfirm the examination dates, and reconfirm the number of candidates you have in the training program. If you have any questions concerning this information, please contact Mr. C. Phillips of my staff at 630-829-9739.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Roger D. Lanksbury, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-255
License No. DPR-20

cc: J. Cowan, Executive Vice President
and Chief Nuclear Officer
R. Fenech, Senior Vice President, Nuclear
Fossil and Hydro Operations
D. Cooper, Senior Vice President - Group Operations
L. Lahti, Manager, Regulatory Affairs
J. Rogoff, Vice President, Counsel and Secretary,
A. Udrys, Esquire, Consumers Energy Company
S. Wawro, Director of Nuclear Assets, Consumers Energy Company
Supervisor, Covert Township
Office of the Governor
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality -
Waste and Hazardous Materials Division
Michigan Department of Attorney General

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- R. Fenech, Senior Vice President, Nuclear
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- D. Cooper, Senior Vice President - Group Operations
- L. Lahti, Manager, Regulatory Affairs
- J. Rogoff, Vice President, Counsel and Secretary,
- A. Udrys, Esquire, Consumers Energy Company
- S. Wawro, Director of Nuclear Assets, Consumers Energy Company
Supervisor, Covert Township
Office of the Governor
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality -
Waste and Hazardous Materials Division
Michigan Department of Attorney General

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