



April 21, 2004

Facility Operating License
Appendix B, Section 5.4.1

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

Palisades Nuclear Plant
Docket 50-255
License No. DPR-20

2003 Non-Radiological Environmental Operating Report

Nuclear Management Company, LLC (NMC), is providing the Palisades Nuclear Plant Annual Non-Radiological Environmental Operating Report for 2003. This report was prepared in accordance with the Palisades Nuclear Plant Facility Operating License, Appendix B, section 5.4.1. The attached report describes the implementation of the Environmental Protection Plan from January 1, 2003, through December 31, 2003.

Summary of Commitments

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

Daniel J. Malone
Site Vice President, Palisades Nuclear Plant
Nuclear Management Company, LLC

Enclosure (1)
Attachment (1)

CC Administrator, Region III, USNRC
Project Manager, Palisades, USNRC
Resident Inspector, Palisades, USNRC

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2003 NON-RADIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATING REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

Appendix B of the Facility Operating License for the Palisades Nuclear Plant requires the submittal of an annual environmental operating report to the NRC, describing the implementation of the Environmental Protection Plan (EPP) during the previous year. The period covered by this report is January 1, 2003, through December 31, 2003.

The Palisades Nuclear Plant operated for 7943.3 hours during 2003, which produced a net total of 6,158,154 MWh. This represents 87.3% of the net demonstrated capacity, per the design electric rating of 805 MWe.

2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT EVALUATIONS

Several procedure revisions and facility modifications were evaluated per Palisades Administrative Procedure 4.22, "Non-Radiological Environmental Operating Program," during 2003.

Consumers Energy Company Environmental and Technical Services department reviewed four procedures for determination of impact on the environment. No permits were required from governmental agencies for these activities.

There were no changes, tests, or experiments that involved an unreviewed environmental question, and no projects required EPP changes.

3.0 ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES AUTHORIZED UNDER NPDES

A renewal application for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit MI0001457 was submitted to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality in 2003.

4.0 UNUSUAL ENVIRONMENTAL EVENTS

No unusual environmental events occurred during 2003.

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

Documentation of the effect of cooling tower operation on meteorological variables was required for two years following the conversion from the once-through cooling system to the cooling towers. Because the cooling towers

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have been in operation for 29 years, meteorological monitoring and other monitoring activities related to the cooling towers were not required during 2003.

Herbicides were applied to the transmission line corridor from the switchyard to the plant during the period of August 4, 2003, through August 7, 2003. In addition, various areas of the property were treated for vegetative management. The application of herbicides is documented in Attachment 1.

6.0 NON ROUTINE REPORTS

During 2003, no non-routine reports were generated.

**ATTACHMENT 1
HERBICIDE TREATMENTS**

Company: Asplundh Brush Control (A.B.C.)
708 Blair Mill Road
Willow Grove, PA 19090

Date of Treatment: 8-4-03, 8-5-03, 8-6-03, 8-7-03

Commercial Name: Garlon 4 Premix, EPA registration number 62719-40

Chemical Name: Triclopyr (61.6%), Inert Ingredients-including Kerosene (38.4%)

Concentration of Active Ingredient in Field Use Mix: 25% Garlon 4

Diluting Substance: Arborchem basal oil

Rate of Application: As needed for spraying freshly cut stumps, 4 inches or larger

Total Amount Used: 10 gallons

Method of Application: low volume backpack sprayer

Frequency of Application: Onetime treatment during clearing

Location: Transmission Line corridor from Plant to Switchyard

Purpose of Treatment: To prevent growth of freshly cut trees

**ATTACHMENT 1
HERBICIDE TREATMENTS**

Company: Bio-Serv Corp. D.B.A., Rose Exterminator Company
1025 Huntly Rd.
Niles, Michigan 49120

Date of Treatment: April 23, 2003

Commercial Name: Karmex DF herbicide and Oust herbicide

Chemical Name: Karmex DF (Diuron) Manufactured by Griffin
Oust (Sulfonmeturon Methyl) Manufactured by Dupont

Concentration of Active Ingredient in Field Use Mix: 10 lbs. Karmex, 5 oz. OUST in 100 gallons of water (early spring).

Diluting Substance: Water

Rate of Application: 10 lbs. Karmex, 5 oz OUST in 100 gallons of water per acre.

Total Amount Used: 1,250 gallons

Method of Application: Boom sprayer for parking lots, hand sprayer for all other areas.

Frequency of Application: Once per year in the springtime, then as needed.

Location: Along and near roadways, fence lines, walkways, parking lots, containment areas, substations, cooling towers, protected area and microwave zones.

Purpose of Treatment: Control of weed species