

August 4, 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: SCHEDULING AND DETAILS OF THE MAY 2005 INITIAL LICENSING
EXAMINATION AT PALISADES NUCLEAR PLANT

Dear Mr. Malone:

In a telephone conversation on August 2, 2004, between Mr. G. Smith, Initial License Training Supervisor, and Mr. D. McNeil, Reactor Engineer, arrangements were made for the administration of licensing examinations at the Palisades Nuclear Plant the weeks of May 23, and May 30, 2005. In addition, the NRC will make an examination validation visit to your facility the week of April 25, 2005. Your staff will be given the opportunity to review the examinations at that time.

The NRC will prepare the examinations based on the guidelines in Draft Revision 9 of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." If Draft Revision 9 of NUREG-1021 is issued in final format during the examination preparation time, the examination will be completed in accordance with the instructions issued in Final Revision 9 of NUREG-1021.

To meet the above schedule, it will be necessary for your staff to furnish the reference materials identified in Attachment 2 of ES-201 at your earliest convenience. Any delay in receiving the required reference materials, or the submittal of inadequate or incomplete materials, may cause the examinations to be rescheduled. We will send a follow-up letter approximately 120 days before the examination to provide the chief examiner's name and final details on administration of the examination. Appendix E of NUREG-1021 contains a number of NRC policies and guidelines that will be in effect while the written examinations and operating tests are being developed and administered.

This letter contains information collections that are subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). These information collections were approved by the Office of Management and Budget, approval number 3150-0018, which expires on June 30, 2006.

The public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average 50 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments on any aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Information and

Records Management Branch (T-6 F33), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001, or by Internet electronic mail at BJS1@NRC.GOV; and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202, (3150-0018), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503-0001.

The NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. Smith has been advised of the policies and guidelines referenced in this letter. If you have any questions regarding the NRC's examination procedures and guidelines, please contact Mr. D. McNeil at (630) 829-9737, or me at 630-829-9631.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 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 w/encl: 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
Manager, Regulatory Affairs
J. Rogoff, Vice President, Counsel and Secretary
A. Udrys, Esquire, Consumers Energy Company
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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D. Cooper, Senior Vice President - Group Operations
Manager, Regulatory Affairs
J. Rogoff, Vice President, Counsel and Secretary
A. Udrys, Esquire, Consumers Energy Company
Director of Nuclear Assets, Consumers Energy Company
Supervisor, Covert Township
Office of the Governor
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality -
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