

June 30, 2005

Mr. Brian Conway
Michigan State Historic Preservation Office
Michigan Historical Center
PO Box 30740
717 West Allegan Street
Lansing, MI 48909

SUBJECT: PALISADES NUCLEAR PLANT LICENSE RENEWAL REVIEW

Dear Mr. Conway:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing an application to renew the operating license for Palisades Nuclear Plant (Palisades), which is located in Covert Township on the western side of Van Buren County, Michigan. Palisades is operated by Nuclear Management Company, LLC (NMC). The application for renewal was submitted by NMC on March 31, 2005, pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 54 (10 CFR Part 54). The NRC has established that, as part of the staff review of any nuclear power plant license renewal action, a site-specific Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to its "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants" (GEIS), NUREG-1437, will be prepared under the provisions of 10 CFR Part 51, the NRC rules that implement the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). In accordance with 36 CFR 800.8, the SEIS will include analyses of potential impacts to historic and cultural resources.

In the context of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the NRC staff has determined that the area of potential effect (APE) for a license renewal action is the area at the power plant site and its immediate environs that may be impacted by post-license renewal land disturbing operations or projected refurbishment activities associated with the proposed action. The APE may extend beyond the immediate environs in those instances where post-license renewal land disturbing operations or projected refurbishment activities, specifically related to license renewal, may potentially have an effect on known or proposed historic sites. This determination is made irrespective of ownership or control of the lands of interest.

B. Conway

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On July 28, 2005, the NRC will conduct two public NEPA scoping meetings at the Lake Michigan College, 125 Veterans Boulevard, South Haven, Michigan 49090. You and your staff are invited to attend. Your office will receive a copy of the draft SEIS along with a request for comments. The anticipated publication date for the draft SEIS is February 2006. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Mr. Robert Schaaf, Senior Environmental Project Manager, by phone at 301-415-1312 or by email at rgs@nrc.gov, or Ms. Cristina Guerrero, Project Support, by phone at 301-415-2981 or by e-mail at cxg3@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Pao-Tsin Kuo, Program Director
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No.: 50-255

cc: See next page

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Pao-Tsin Kuo, Program Director
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
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Docket No.: 50-255

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Palisades Nuclear Plant

cc:

Robert A. Fenech, Senior Vice President
Nuclear, Fossil, and Hydro Operations
Consumers Energy Company
1945 Parnall Rd.
Jackson, MI 49201

Special Litigation Division
525 West Ottawa St.
Sixth Floor, G. Mennen Williams Building
Lansing, MI 48913

Arunas T. Udrys, Esquire
Consumers Energy Company
1 Energy Plaza
Jackson, MI 49201

Manager, Regulatory Affairs
Nuclear Management Company, LLC
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway
Covert, MI 49043

Regional Administrator, Region III
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
801 Warrenville Road
Lisle, IL 60532-4351

Director of Nuclear Assets
Consumers Energy Company
Palisades Nuclear Plant
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway
Covert, MI 49043

Supervisor
Covert Township
P.O. Box 35
Covert, MI 49043

Mr. Daniel J. Malone
Site Vice President
Palisades Nuclear Plant
27780 Blue Star Highway
Covert, MI 49043

Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

Mr. Douglas F. Johnson
Director, Plant Life Cycle Issues
Nuclear Management Company, LLC
700 First Street
Hudson, WI 54016

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Resident Inspector's Office
Palisades Plant
27782 Blue Star Memorial Highway
Covert, MI 49043

John Paul Cowan
Executive Vice President & Chief Nuclear
Officer
Nuclear Management Company, LLC
700 First Street
Hudson, WI 54016

Michigan Department of Environmental
Quality
Waste and Hazardous Materials Division
Hazardous Waste and Radiological
Protection Section
Nuclear Facilities Unit
Constitution Hall, Lower-Level North
525 West Allegan Street
P.O. Box 30241
Lansing, MI 48909-7741

Jonathan Rogoff, Esquire
Vice President, Counsel & Secretary
Nuclear Management Company, LLC
700 First Street
Hudson, WI 54016

Michigan Department of Attorney General

Palisades Nuclear Plant

cc:

Douglas E. Cooper
Senior Vice President - Group Operations
Palisades Nuclear Plant
Nuclear Management Company, LLC
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway
Covert, MI 49043

Robert A. Vincent
Licensing Lead - License Renewal Project
Palisades Nuclear Plant
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway
Covert, MI 49043

Darrel G. Turner
License Renewal Project Manager
Palisades Nuclear Plant
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway
Covert, MI 49043

Ms. Lois Bemis
South Haven Memorial Library
314 Broadway St.
South Haven, MI 49090