July 13, 2005

The Honorable John A. Barrett, Jr., Chairperson
Citizen Potawatomi Nation
1601 South Gordon Cooper Drive
Shawnee, OK 74801

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR COMMENTS CONCERNING PALISADES NUCLEAR PLANT APPLICATION FOR OPERATING LICENSE RENEWAL

Dear Chairperson Barrett:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is seeking input for its environmental review of an application from the Nuclear Management Company, LLC (NMC) to renew the operating licenses for the Palisades Nuclear Plant (Palisades), located in Covert Township on the western side of Van Buren County, Michigan. Palisades is in close proximity to lands that may be of interest to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. As described below, the NRC process includes an opportunity for public and inter-governmental participation in the environmental review. We want to ensure that you are aware of our efforts and, pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 51.28(b) (10 CFR 51.28(b)), the NRC invites the Citizen Potawatomi Nation to provide input to the scoping process relating to the NRC's environmental review of the application. In addition, as outlined in 36 CFR 800.8, the NRC plans to coordinate compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 through the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Under NRC regulations, the original operating license for a nuclear power plant is issued for up to 40 years. The license may be renewed for up to an additional 20 years if NRC requirements are met. The current operating license for Palisades will expire in March 2011. NMC submitted its application for renewal of the Palisades operating license on March 31, 2005.

The NRC is gathering information for a Palisades-specific supplement to its "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants" (GEIS), NUREG-1437. The supplement will contain the results of the review of the environmental impacts on the area surrounding the Palisades site that are related to terrestrial ecology, aquatic ecology, hydrology, cultural resources, and socioeconomic issues (among others) and will contain a recommendation regarding the environmental acceptability of the license renewal action. Provided for your information is the Palisades Site Layout (Enclosure 1) and Transmission Line Map (Enclosure 2).

The NRC will hold two public scoping meetings for the Palisades license renewal supplement to the GEIS on July 28, 2005, at the Lake Michigan College, 125 Veterans Boulevard, South Haven, Michigan 49090. There will be two sessions to accommodate interested parties. The first session will convene at 1:30 p.m. and will continue until 4:30 p.m., as necessary. The second session will convene at 7:00 p.m., with a repeat of the overview portions of the meeting, and will continue until 10:00 p.m., as necessary. Additionally, the NRC staff will host informal discussions one hour before the start of each session. To be considered, comments must be provided either at the transcribed public meetings or in writing. No formal comments on the proposed scope of the supplement to the GEIS will be accepted during informal discussions.

The application is electronically available for inspection from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) under Accession Number ML050940449. ADAMS is accessible at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html. If you do not have access to ADAMS or if there are problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) Reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 1-301-415-4737, or by e-mail at pdr@nrc.gov. In addition, the application can be viewed on the Internet at http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications.html.

A paper copy of the application can be viewed at the NRC's PDR, located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland, 20855-2738. Copies will also be available at the South Haven Memorial Library, 314 Broadway St, South Haven, MI 49090. The GEIS, which assesses the scope and impact of environmental effects that would be associated with license renewal at any nuclear power plant site, can also be found on the NRC's Web site or at the NRC's PDR.

Please submit any written comments that the Citizen Potawatomi Nation may have to offer on the scope of the environmental review by August 22, 2005. Comments should be submitted by mail to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Mail Stop T-6D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C., 20555-0001. At the conclusion of the scoping process, the NRC staff will prepare a summary of the significant issues identified and the conclusions reached and will mail a copy to you.

The NRC will issue the draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for public comment (anticipated publication date, February 2006), and will hold another set of public meetings in the site vicinity to solicit comments on the draft. A copy of the draft SEIS will be sent to you for your review and comment. After consideration of public comments received on the draft, the NRC will prepare a final SEIS. The issuance of the final SEIS for Palisades is planned for October 2006. If you need additional information regarding the environmental review process, please contact Mr. Robert Schaaf, Senior Environmental Project Manager, at 301-415-1312 or by e-mail at rgs@nrc.gov, or Ms. Cristina Guerrero, Project Support, 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

Enclosures: 1. Palisades Site Layout
2. Palisades Transmission Line Map

cc w/encls.: See next page

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DATE	06/29/05	06/29/05	06/29/05	06/29/05	07/ 13/05

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Palisades Nuclear Plant

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Ms. Lois Bemis
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South Haven, MI 49090

FIGURE 2.1-3
SITE MAP

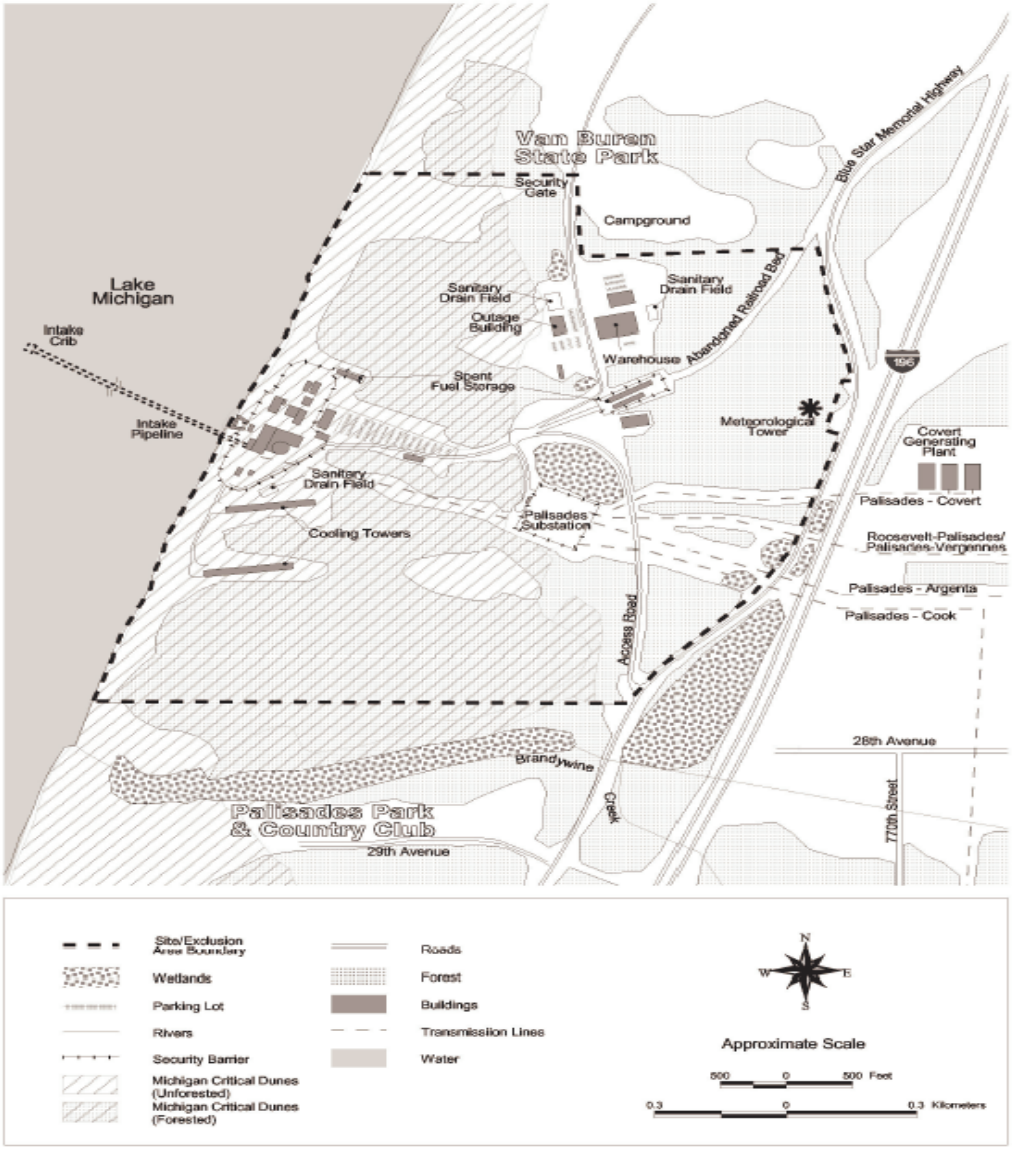
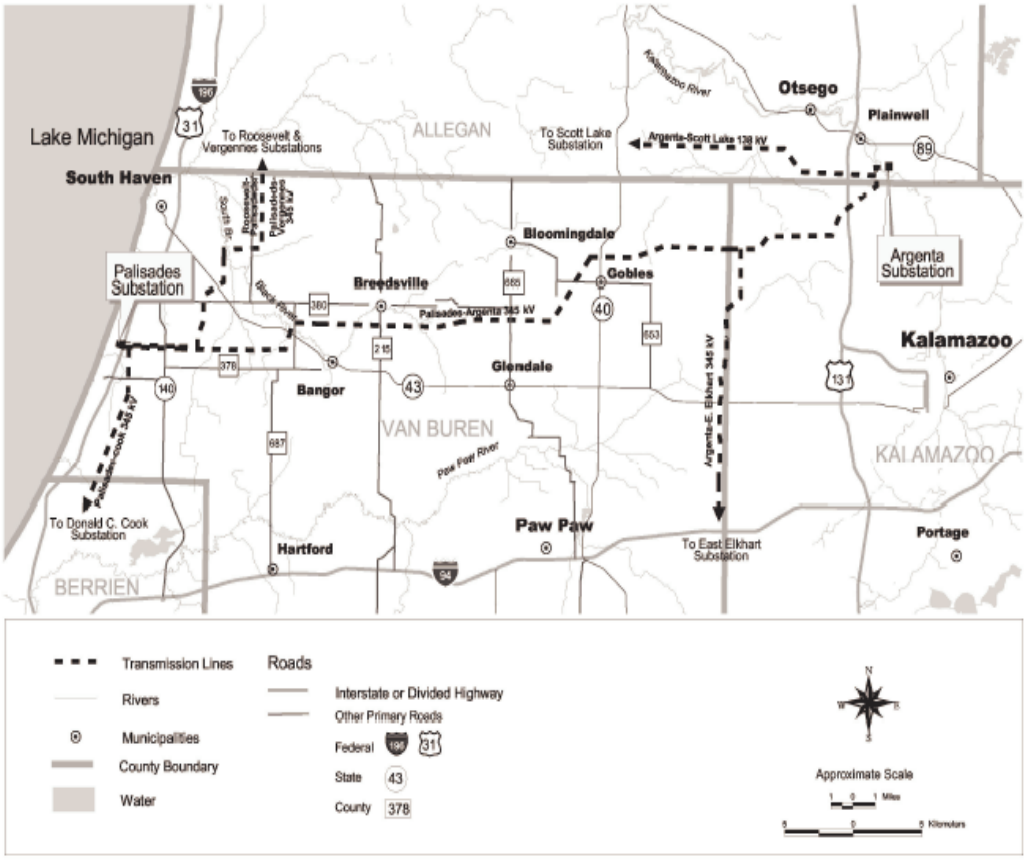
FIGURE 3.1-1
TRANSMISSION LINES