

October 6, 2005

Mr. Paul A. Harden
Site Vice President
Nuclear Management Company, LLC
Palisades Nuclear Plant
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway
Covert, MI 49043-9530

Dear Mr. Harden:

In a telephone conversation on October 3, 2005, between Mr. Greg Smith, Operations, Training Manager, and Raymond Keith Walton, NRC Reactor Examiner, arrangements were made for the administration of a written retake operator license examination at the Palisades Nuclear Power Station the week of February 6, 2006.

As agreed during the telephone conversation, your staff will prepare the written examination based on the guidelines in Revision 9 of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." The NRC regional office will discuss with your staff any changes that might be necessary before the examination is administered.

To meet the above schedule, it is necessary for your staff to furnish the examination outlines by the week of November 28, 2005. The written examination and the supporting reference materials identified in Attachment 2 of ES-201 will be due by the week of January 3, 2006. Pursuant to 10 CFR 55.40(b)(3), an authorized representative of the facility license shall approve the outline and written examination before they are submitted to the NRC for review and approval. All materials shall be complete and ready to use. We request that any personal, proprietary, sensitive unclassified, or safeguards information in your response be contained in a separate enclosure and appropriately marked. Any delay in receiving the required examination and reference materials, or the submittal of inadequate or incomplete materials, may cause the examinations to be rescheduled.

Appendix E of NUREG-1021 contains a number of NRC policies and guidelines that will be in effect while the written examination is being administered.

To permit timely NRC review and evaluation, your staff should submit the preliminary reactor operator license application (Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval number 3150-0090), medical certifications (OMB approval number 3150-0024), and waiver request (for the operating exam) (OMB approval number 3150-0090) at least 30 days before the examination date. If the applications are not received at least 30 days before the examination date, a postponement may be necessary. Signed applications certifying that all training has been completed should be submitted at least 14 days before the examination date.

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 500 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 BJ51@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 neither conduct nor 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 Raymond Keith Walton at 630-829-9836, or me at 630-829-9707.

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's Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the Electronic Reading Room page of the NRC's public Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Sincerely,

/RA by M. Bielby acting for/

Hironori Peterson, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

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

See Attached Distribution

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Hironori Peterson, Chief
 Operations Branch
 Division of Reactor Safety

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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
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