

FRED UPTON

8TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

**ENERGY AND COMMERCE
COMMITTEE**

CHAIRMAN, TELECOMMUNICATIONS
AND THE INTERNET SUBCOMMITTEE

COMMERCE, TRADE AND CONSUMER
PROTECTION SUBCOMMITTEE

HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE



**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives**

April 26, 2005

The Honorable Nils Diaz, Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
One White Flint North
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852-2738

Dear Chairman Diaz:

I write to express my strong support for the license renewal application of the Palisades Nuclear Plant located in Covert Township, Michigan. The plant provides important economic benefits to my district – including providing 600 jobs with a payroll of nearly \$60 million; \$6.3 million in taxes to the township; and enough electricity to meet the needs of a community of more than 500,000 residents.

Perhaps more importantly, the plant has an outstanding record of safety, reliability, and sound management. At present, the Nuclear Management Company (NMC) operates the Palisades plant for Consumers Energy. Since taking over the plant's operations from Consumers, NMC has maintained Palisades' excellent reputation for reliability and predictability. In 2004, Palisades established a plant record of 478 continuous days of operation.

The current Palisades operating license expires in March of 2011. The approval of the renewal application will extend the expiration date to March 2031. The license renewal will mean far more to the residents and businesses of southwest Michigan than continued access to safe, reliable, and efficient energy. It will also mean a great deal to them in terms of continued employment for those who operate and maintain the plant; continued tax revenues for local units of government and tax sharing entities, such as community schools, district libraries and hospital authorities in the region; continued support for Emergency Management activities in the counties of Allegan, Berrien and Van Buren; and continued employee paychecks that bolster local economies.

I strongly urge the Commission to approve the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant re-licensing application to ensure continued reliable, safe and economic electricity to the residents of the state of Michigan, and to ensure the economic vitality of the citizens of southwest Michigan.

Sincerely,

Fred Upton
Member of Congress

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