

4.0 DESIGN FEATURES

4.1 Site Location

The Palisades Nuclear Plant is located on property owned by Entergy Nuclear Palisades, LLC on the eastern shore of Lake Michigan approximately four and one-half miles south of the southern city limits of South Haven, Michigan. The minimum distance to the boundary of the exclusion area as defined in 10 CFR 100.3 shall be 677 meters.

4.2 Reactor Core

4.2.1 Fuel Assemblies

The reactor core shall contain 204 fuel assemblies. Each assembly shall consist of a matrix of zircaloy-4 clad fuel rods with an initial composition of depleted, natural, or slightly enriched uranium dioxide (UO₂) as fuel material. Limited substitutions of zirconium alloy or stainless steel filler rods for fuel rods, in accordance with approved applications of fuel rod configurations, may be used. Fuel assemblies shall be limited to those fuel designs that have been analyzed with applicable NRC staff approved codes and methods and shown by tests or analyses to comply with all fuel safety design bases. A limited number of lead test assemblies that have not completed representative testing may be placed in nonlimiting core regions. A core plug or plugs may be used to replace one or more fuel assemblies subject to the analysis of the resulting power distribution. Poison may be placed in the fuel bundles for long-term reactivity control.

4.2.2 Control Rod Assemblies

The reactor core shall contain 45 control rods. Four of these control rods may consist of part-length absorbers. The control material shall be silver-indium-cadmium, as approved by the NRC.

4.3 Fuel Storage

4.3.1 Criticality

4.3.1.1 The Region I fuel storage racks (See Figure B 3.7.16-1) are designed and shall be maintained with:

- a. Fuel assemblies having a maximum planar average U-235 enrichment of 4.95 weight percent;