

September 19, 2008

Vice President, Operations  
Entergy Nuclear Operations  
Palisades Nuclear Plant  
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway  
Covert, MI 49043-9530

SUBJECT: PALISADES PLANT – ACCEPTANCE OF REQUESTED LICENSING ACTION  
RE: RELIEF REQUEST AND SUPPORTING AMENDMENT TO EXTEND THE  
THIRD 10-YEAR INSERVICE INSPECTION INTERVAL FOR REACTOR  
VESSEL WELD EXAMINATION (TAC NOS. MD9265 AND MD9266)

Dear Sir or Madam:

By letters dated July 21, 2008 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML082040342), Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (ENO) submitted a relief request (RR) and a supporting license amendment request (LAR) (ADAMS Accession No. ML082030796) for the Palisades Plant. The proposed RR would extend the third inservice inspection interval, for reactor vessel pressure retaining welds, examination category B-A and B-D, until December 12, 2015. The supporting LAR would add a new license condition that would direct ENO to submit the information and analyses requested in Section (e) of the final Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 50.61a (or the proposed 10 CFR 50.61a, given in 72 FR 56275 prior to issuance of the final 10 CFR 50.61a) to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the NRC staff's acceptance review of these requests. The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review. The acceptance review is also intended to identify whether the application has any readily apparent information insufficiencies in its characterization of the regulatory requirements or the licensing basis of the plant. NRC letter dated August 19, 2008 (ADAMS Accession No. ML082210210), requested supplemental information needed for acceptance of requested licensing action.

Consistent with Section 50.90 of 10 CFR, an amendment to the license (including the technical specifications) must fully describe the changes requested, and following as far as applicable, the form prescribed for original applications. Section 50.34 of 10 CFR addresses the content of technical information required. This section stipulates that the submittal address the design and operating characteristics, unusual or novel design features, and principal safety considerations.

Pursuant to Sections 50.55a(a)(3)(i) and 50.55a(a)(3)(ii) of 10 CFR, the applicant shall demonstrate that the proposed alternatives would provide an acceptable level of quality and safety, or that compliance with the specified requirements of Section 50.55a would result in hardship or unusual difficulty without a compensating increase in the level of quality or safety.

The NRC staff has reviewed your application and the supplemental information provided in your letter dated August 14, 2008 (ADAMS Accession No. ML082540053), and concluded that it

Vice President, Operations

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does provide technical information in sufficient detail to enable the staff to proceed with its detailed technical review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed amendment in terms of regulatory requirements and the protection of public health and safety and the environment. If additional information is needed for the staff to complete its technical review, you will be advised by separate correspondence. If you have any questions, please contact me, at (301) 415-8371.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Mahesh L. Chawla, Project Manager  
Plant Licensing Branch III-1  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-255

cc: See next page

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Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Mahesh L. Chawla, Project Manager  
Plant Licensing Branch III-1  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-255

cc: See next page

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**ADAMS Accession No. ML082480100**

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NAME	MChawla	BTully	MMitchell	LJames
DATE	09/ 11 /08	09/ 10 /08	09/ 11 /08	09/ 19 /08

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Palisades Plant

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