



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

November 21, 2011

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

SUBJECT: PALISADES NUCLEAR PLANT – REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION REGARDING 60-DAY RESPONSE TO BULLETIN 2011-01,
“MITIGATING STRATEGIES” (TAC NO. ME6461)

Dear Sir:

On May 11, 2011, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Bulletin 2011-01, “Mitigating Strategies” (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML111250360), to all holders of operating licenses for nuclear power reactors, except those that have permanently ceased operation and have certified that fuel has been removed from the reactor vessel. The purpose of NRC Bulletin 2011-01 (the bulletin) was to obtain a comprehensive verification that licensees’ mitigating strategies to maintain or restore core cooling, spent fuel cooling, and containment following a large explosion or fire were compliant with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Section 50.54(hh)(2). The bulletin requested information on licensee 10 CFR 50.54(hh)(2) mitigating strategies in light of the recent events at Japan’s Fukushima Daiichi facility to determine if (1) additional assessment of program implementation is needed, (2) the current inspection program should be enhanced, or (3) further regulatory action is warranted.

The bulletin required two sets of responses pursuant to the provisions of 10 CFR 50.54(f). The first responses were due 30 days after issuance of the bulletin (June 10, 2011). By letter dated June 10, 2011 (ADAMS Accession No. ML111640451), you provided a response to the first set of questions for Palisades Nuclear Plant. The second responses were due 60 days after issuance of the bulletin (July 11, 2011). By letter dated July 8, 2011 (ADAMS Accession No. ML111890270), you responded to this second set of questions.

The NRC staff has reviewed the submitted information and determined that it needs additional information regarding your 60-day response to the bulletin. Please respond to the enclosed request for additional information within 30 days of the date of this letter.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me at (301) 415-8371 or Mahesh.chawla@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,



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

Docket No. 50-255

cc: Distribution via Listserv

Enclosure: Request for Additional Information

NRC Bulletin 2011-01, "Mitigating Strategies"
Request for Additional Information
Palisades Nuclear Plant

- 1. Describe in detail how you ensure that a vehicle is available to move the B.5.b portable pump and other B.5.b equipment to the appropriate place when needed.**

The bulletin requested that each licensee describe in detail the controls for ensuring equipment needed to execute the mitigating strategies will be available when needed. A vehicle is typically needed to implement the strategies since the portable pump and other equipment is stored away from target areas. The NRC staff could not determine if you performed activities to ensure that a tow vehicle would be available when needed.

- 2. Describe in detail how you ensure there is sufficient fuel for the pumping source when needed.**

The bulletin requested that each licensee describe in detail the maintenance of equipment supporting the mitigating strategies to ensure that it will be functional when needed. The NRC staff could not determine if you performed activities to ensure that sufficient fuel would be available for the pumping source so that it will be functional when needed.

- 3. Identify the minimum inventory frequency for equipment needed for the mitigating strategies not specifically identified in response to the bulletin. Alternatively, describe the inventory frequency for firefighter turnout gear, tools, and instruments needed to support the mitigating strategies.**

The bulletin requested that each licensee describe in detail the controls for ensuring equipment supporting the mitigating strategies will be available when needed. Firefighter turnout gear, tools, and instruments are generally needed to implement the mitigating strategies, but not all of these items were clearly included in your response to the bulletin.

- 4. Describe in detail how you ensure the availability of local law enforcement agencies relied upon for emergency response to a B.5.b event.**

The bulletin requested that each licensee describe in detail how it ensures the availability of offsite support, including a listing of offsite organizations relied upon for emergency response. Typically, local law enforcement agencies are relied upon for emergency response to a B.5.b event. In response to Question 5 of the bulletin, you did not identify any local law enforcement agencies as being relied upon to respond to a B.5.b event.

- 5. Clarify what the inspection frequency is for the B.5.b portable hose and equipment trailer.**

In response to the bulletin, you state that the B.5.b portable hose and equipment trailer is inspected annually in response to Question 1 and quarterly in response to Question 2.

Enclosure

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me at (301) 415-8371 or Mahesh.chawla@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

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NRR-106

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