



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

REGION III
2443 WARRENVILLE RD. SUITE 210
LISLE, IL 60532-4352

November 20, 2015

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

**SUBJECT: SCHEDULING OF INITIAL OPERATOR LICENSE EXAMINATIONS:
PALISADES NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 1**

Dear Mr. Vitale:

We have received your corporate letter PNP 2015-039, dated June 3, 2015, in response to U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Regulatory Issue Summary 2015-05, "Preparation and Scheduling of Operator Licensing Examinations." In the letter, you requested initial operator licensing examinations be scheduled for February 2017, and September 2019 at your Palisades Nuclear Plant.

In response, we have scheduled initial operator licensing examinations for the weeks of:

- February 13, 2017, with an onsite validation date the week of January 16, 2017.
- September 23, and 30, 2019, with an onsite validation date the week of August 26, 2019.

With consideration for future NRC resource challenges, we have adjusted your requested exam dates from our last RIS Response letter dated January 28, 2015. Based on these anticipated resources challenges, the above dates have changed.

In the unlikely event that we are unable to support the examination during the scheduled weeks, we will inform you immediately, upon discovery, of such conditions, and make arrangements to administer the examination at a mutually acceptable date.

We understand that your staff will develop these examinations unless we determine it is necessary for the NRC to develop an examination in which case, we will notify you immediately upon discovery of that need. Because your letter indicated that there were more than nine applicants being considered for the 2019 examination, the examination was scheduled for two weeks.

Please inform us if the number of candidates decline below 10 for any examination, as this will impact the examination schedule.

Also, please inform us at your earliest opportunity if you discover you need to change the scheduled dates for the examinations.

A. Vitale

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A supplementary letter will be sent to the training department approximately 150 days prior to the examination informing the training manager of the chief examiner's name. This corporate notification letter will also outline examination security expectations, list the materials required by the NRC to conduct the examination, reconfirm the examination date, and reconfirm the number of candidates you have in the Training Program.

In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 2.390, "Public Inspections, Exemptions, Requests for Withholding," 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 NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Hironori Peterson, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

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A. Vitale

-2-

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Hironori Peterson, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

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