



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

September 13, 2016

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

SUBJECT: PALISADES NUCLEAR PLANT – RESULTS OF ACCEPTANCE REVIEW FOR
LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST REGARDING CONTROL ROD DRIVE
EXERCISE SURVEILLANCE (CAC NO. MF8297)

Dear Sir or Madam:

By letter dated August 22, 2016 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML16235A195), as supplemented by letter dated September 8, 2016 (ADAMS Accession No. ML16252A351), Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc., submitted a license amendment request for Palisades Nuclear Plant. The proposed amendment would replace existing license condition 2.C.(4) with a new license condition to state that technical specification (TS) surveillance requirement (SR) 3.1.4.3 is not required for control rod drive 13 (CRD-13) during cycle 25 until the next entry into Mode 3. In addition, the condition would state that CRD-13 seal leakage shall be repaired prior to entering Mode 2, following the next Mode 3 entry, and that the reactor shall be shut down if CRD-13 seal leakage exceeds two gallons per minute. The proposed amendment also requests replacement of the obsolete note in TS SR 3.1.4.3 with a note to clarify that TS SR 3.1.4.3 is not required to be performed or met for CRD-13 during cycle 25 provided CRD-13 is administratively declared immovable, but trippable, and Condition D is entered for CRD-13.

The purpose of this e-mail is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of this amendment request. 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.

Consistent with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Section 50.90, an amendment to the license must fully describe the changes requested, and following as far as applicable, the form prescribed for original application. 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.

The NRC staff has reviewed your application, as supplemented by additional information provided in your letter dated September 8, 2016, and concluded that it does provide technical information in sufficient detail to enable the NRC staff to complete 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. Given the lesser scope and depth of the acceptance review as compared to the

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detailed technical review, there may be instances in which issues that impact the NRC staff's ability to complete the detailed technical review are identified despite completion of an adequate acceptance review. You will be advised of any further information needed to support the NRC staff's detailed technical review by separate correspondence.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1627.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kimberly J. Green". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Kimberly J. Green, Senior Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch III-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-255

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Kimberly J. Green, Senior Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch III-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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