

## **NRR-PMDAPem Resource**

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**From:** Rankin, Jennivine  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 26, 2017 10:09 AM  
**To:** ERICKSON, JEFFREY S (JERICKS@entergy.com); MIKSA, JAMES P (jmiksa@entergy.com)  
**Subject:** Palisades Nuclear Plant - Acceptance Review of Relief Request Regarding System Leakage Test (CAC No. MF8946)

Mr. Miksa and Mr. Erickson,

By letter dated December 20, 2016 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML16355A020), Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (the licensee), submitted a relief request for Palisades Nuclear Plant (PNP). The proposed relief requests U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission authorization to use an alternative to reactor vessel system leakage testing requirements as specified in Subarticle IWB-5220, "System Leakage Test" of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME Code), Section XI, "Rules for Inservice Inspection of Nuclear Power Plant Components."

The purpose of this e-mail is to provide the results of the NRC staff's acceptance review of this relief 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 Section 50.55a(z)(2) of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, the applicant shall demonstrate 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 and safety.

The NRC staff has reviewed your application 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 relief request 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 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. If additional information is needed, you will be advised by separate correspondence.

Based on the information provided in your submittal, the NRC staff has estimated that this licensing request will take approximately 120 hours to complete. The NRC staff expects to complete this review in approximately 9 months, which is September 2017. If there are emergent complexities or challenges in our review that would cause changes to the initial forecasted completion date (greater than a month) or significant changes in the forecasted hours (greater than 25%), I will communicate the reasons for the changes, along with the new estimates during our routine interactions. These estimates are based on the staff's initial review of the application and they could change, due to several factors including requests for additional information and unanticipated addition of scope to the review.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1530.

Thanks,  
Jennie

Jennie Rankin, Project Manager  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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