

## **NRR-PMDAPem Resource**

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**From:** Wall, Scott  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2017 12:48 PM  
**To:** ERICKSON, JEFFREY S; MIKSA, JAMES P  
**Cc:** Rankin, Jennivine; Lamb, John  
**Subject:** Palisades - Acceptance Review (CAC No. MG0198)

**SUBJECT: PALISADES NUCLEAR PLANT – ACCEPTANCE OF REQUESTED LICENSING ACTION, PROPOSED CHANGES TO EMERGENCY PLAN TO REFLECT A PERMANENTLY SHUT DOWN AND DEFUELED REACTOR VESSEL (CAC NO. MG0198)**

By letter dated January 4, 2017 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML17004A062), the licensee submitted Notification of Permanent Cessation of Power Operations for the Palisades Nuclear Plant (Palisades). In this letter, Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (Entergy or the licensee), provided notification to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) of its intent to permanently cease power operations no later than October 1, 2018. After certifications of permanent cessation of power operations and permanent removal of fuel from the reactor vessel for Palisades are submitted in accordance with Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR), Section 50.82(a)(1)(i) and (ii), the 10 CFR Part 50 license will no longer authorize reactor operation or placement or retention of fuel in the reactor vessel. As a result, licensed reactor operators will no longer be required to support plant operating activities. Instead, Entergy intends to have certified fuel handlers facilitate activities associated with decommissioning and irradiated fuel handling and management.

By letter dated August 31, 2017 (ADAMS Accession Nos. ML17248A389, ML17243A157, and ML17248A401), Entergy submitted its license amendment request to revise the Palisades Site Emergency Plan (SEP) for the permanently shut down and defueled condition. Specifically, this request proposes to revise the on-shift and augmented Emergency Response Organization (ERO) staffing given the permanent cessation of power operations and permanent removal of fuel from the reactor vessel. The proposed changes are being submitted to the NRC for approval prior to implementation, as required under 10 CFR 50.54(q)(4). 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.

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 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 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 350 hours to complete. The NRC staff expects to complete this review in approximately 12 months, which is October 2018. If there are emergent complexities or challenges in our review that would cause changes to the initial forecasted completion date or significant changes in the forecasted hours, the reasons for the changes, along with the new estimates, will be communicated during the routine interactions with the assigned project manager.

These estimates are based on the NRC staff's initial review of the application and they could change, due to several factors including requests for additional information, unanticipated addition of scope to the review, and

review by NRC advisory committees or hearing-related activities. Additional delay may occur if the submittal is provided to the NRC in advance or in parallel with industry program initiatives or pilot applications.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-2855 or e-mail at [Scott.Wall@nrc.gov](mailto:Scott.Wall@nrc.gov).

**Scott P. Wall, LSS BB, BSP**

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**Hearing Identifier:** NRR\_PMDA  
**Email Number:** 3737

**Mail Envelope Properties** (Scott.Wall@nrc.gov20170920124800)

**Subject:** Palisades - Acceptance Review (CAC No. MG0198)  
**Sent Date:** 9/20/2017 12:48:21 PM  
**Received Date:** 9/20/2017 12:48:00 PM  
**From:** Wall, Scott

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<b>Files</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Date &amp; Time</b>
MESSAGE	4509	9/20/2017 12:48:00 PM

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**Priority:** Standard  
**Return Notification:** No  
**Reply Requested:** No  
**Sensitivity:** Normal  
**Expiration Date:**  
**Recipients Received:**