May 10, 1990

Docket No. 50-255 Serial No. PAL-90-030

Mr. Kenneth W. Berry Director, Nuclear Licensing Consumers Power Company 1945 West Parnall Road Jackson, Michigan 49201

DISTRIBUTION Docket File NRC & Local PDRs JZwolinski MRShuttleworth ADeAgazio OGC EJordan ACRS(10)

Dear Mr. Berry:

SUBJECT: POTENTIAL LOSS OF REQUIRED SHUTDOWN MARGIN - BULLETIN 89-03

(TAC 75442)

On November 21, 1989, the NRC issued Bulletin 89-03, "Potential Loss of Required Shutdown Margin During Refueling Operations." The bulletin requested that you take certain actions to ensure that adequate shutdown margin is maintained during refueling operations. Three actions were identified:

- Assure that any intermediate fuel assembly configuration (including control rods) intended to be used during refueling is identified and evaluated to maintain sufficient refueling shutdown boron concentration to result in a minimum shutdown margin of 5%.
- 2. Assure that fuel loading procedures allow only those intermediate fuel assembly configurations that do not violate the allowable shutdown margin and that those procedures are adhered to strictly.
- Assure that the staff responsible for refueling operations is trained in the procedures recommended in item 2 above and understands the potential consequences of violating these procedures. The training should include the fundamentals of criticality control with enriched fuel assemblies.

By letter dated February 1, 1990, Consumers Power Company (CPCo) responded to Bulletin 89-03 and indicated that the programs will be implemented prior to the 1990 refueling outage to address the three actions described above. The NRC considers CPCo's response to this bulletin satisfactory.

CPCo is requested to inform the Commission, in writing, of any change to the implementation schedule. CPCo also is requested to inform the Commission, in writing, when the action has actually been implemented.

Sincerely,

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Albert W. De Agazio, Sr. Proj∉ct Manager

Project Directorate III-1

Division of Reactor Projects - III

IV, V & Special Projects

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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cc: DLaBarge

PM/PD31: DRSP (A)D/PD31:DRSP

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

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Albert W. De Agazio, Sr. Project Manager

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: DLaBarge

Mr. Kenneth W. Berry Consumers Power Company Palisades Plant

cc:

M. I. Miller, Esquire Sidley & Austin 54th Floor One First National Plaza Chicago, Illinois 60603

Mr. Thomas A. McNish, Secretary Consumers Power Company 212 West Michigan Avenue Jackson, Michigan 49201

Judd L. Bacon, Esquire Consumers Power Company 212 West Michigan Avenue Jackson, Michigan 49201

Regional Administrator, Region III U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 799 Roosevelt Road Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

Jerry Sarno Township Supervisor Covert Township 36197 M-140 Highway Covert, Michigan 49043

Office of the Governor Room 1 - Capitol Building Lansing, Michigan 48913

Mr. Gerald B. Slade Plant General Manager Palisades Plant 27780 Blue Star Memorial Hwy. Covert, Michigan 49043

Resident Inspector c/o U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Palisades Plant 27782 Blue Star Memorial Hwy. Covert, Michigan 49043 Nuclear Facilities and Environmental Monitoring Section Office Division of Radiological Health P.O. Box 30035 Lansing, Michigan 48909