



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

July 26, 1991

Docket No. 50-255

LICENSEE: CONSUMERS POWER COMPANY  
FACILITIES: PALISADES PLANT  
SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MEETING WITH CONSUMERS POWER COMPANY  
PALISADES PLANT INDEPENDENT SPENT FUEL STORAGE  
INSTALLATION (TAC 80403)

A meeting was held at NRC Headquarters on July 10, 1991 to discuss issues relating to Consumers Power Company's planned Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) at the Palisades Plant. Specifically, two exemption requests were discussed:

- 1) Pacific Sierra Nuclear's exemption request, dated April 18, 1991, to fabricate the initial eight ventilated storage casks prior to receipt of the final certificate of compliance; and
- 2) Consumers Power Company's exemption request, dated May 24, 1991, to load the casks prior to final cask certification.

A chronology of events and current schedule relating to Palisades ISFSI was provided by Consumers Power Company and is included as Enclosure 1. A list of the meeting attendees is provided as Enclosure 2.

Consumers Power Company has selected Pacific Sierra Nuclear (PSN) as the vendor for their ISFSI. PSN submitted a Topical Safety Analysis Report on their concrete Ventilated Storage Cask to the NRC in February 1989. The NRC approved the topical report in a safety evaluation dated March 29, 1991. During the NRC review of this topical, the Commission issued 10CFR72 Subpart K (August 6, 1990), which provided a general ISFSI license to 10CFR50 license holders. However, this general license cannot be utilized until the cask design has its final certificate of compliance. To obtain this "certificate", the PSN cask must be added (through rulemaking) to the list of qualified casks included in 10CFR72.

In view of the length of review for the topical report, the issuance of 10CFR72 Subpart K, and the extended schedule for rulemaking to complete "certification" of the PSN cask, Consumers Power Company and PSN have submitted the above two exemption requests in order to ensure full core discharge capability is maintained. Full core discharge capability is lost following start-up from their next refueling outage (April 1992).

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The lack of full core discharge capability could have serious economic consequences for the utility. Should the need arise (e.g. unscheduled reactor vessel inspection, etc.), and full core discharge capability is not available, a lengthy outage would result. The cost of this outage could be questioned by the state Public Service Commission if the utility had not done everything possible to minimize this economic risk. Additionally, if the capability for full core discharge is lost, the cost of funds to operate the plant could become higher due to assurance desired by financial interests that full core discharge capability does exist.

The NRC staff recognizes that scheduler delays have impacted Consumers Power Company's ISFSI. More importantly, the NRC has approved the specifications and criteria by which PSN is to build the ventilated storage casks. All that remains for final cask certification is rulemaking to add this particular PSN cask to the list of approved casks in 10CFR72 Subpart K. Thus, the NRC is predisposed to grant the exemption which allows fabrication of the casks for the Palisades Plant prior to receipt of the final certificate of compliance. Work on a staff response to this exemption request is ongoing.

However, concerning the exemption request to load fuel prior to the final certificate of compliance, the NRC staff deems that this request need not be processed at this time. The probability of the need for an unscheduled full core discharge is very small. This fact, coupled with the short processing time for an exemption of this type (less than two weeks in exigent circumstances), obviates the need to process this exemption at this time. The NRC is not adverse to considering an exemption of this type, however; the staff's position is to continue with the rulemaking process (a rule could possibly be issued prior to April, 1992), and evaluate the exemption request if a true need arises.

Original Signed By:

Brian E. Holian, Project Manager  
Project Directorate III-I  
Division of Reactor Projects III, IV, V  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures:  
As stated

cc w/enclosure:  
See next page

\*SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCES

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NAME	:BHolian:sw <i>BEN</i>	:FSturz	:AHodgon	:BClayton	:
DATE	:7/26/91	:7/ /91	:7/ /91	:7/26/91	:

**PALISADES ISFSI****CHRONOLOGY**

- 03/09/90 CPC APPLIES FOR SITE SPECIFIC LICENSE.
- 08/06/90 10CFR72, SUBPART K.
- 08/17/90 NRC VERBAL ASSURANCE VSC-24 TSAR WILL BE APPROVED BY 10/90 AND CERTIFIED BY 4/91.
- 08/17/90 CPC WITHDRAWS APPLICATION FOR SITE SPECIFIC LICENSE.
- 03/29/91 NRC APPROVES VSC-24 TSAR.
- 04/04/91 PSN APPLIES FOR VSC-24 C OF C.
- 04/25/91 NRC NOTIFIES CPC AND PSN THAT C OF C FOR VSC-24 WILL NOT BE APPROVED UNTIL 4/92. NRC AGREES EXEMPTION PROCESS IS FEASIBLE.
- 05/24/91 CPC SUBMITS EXEMPTION REQUEST TO USE VSC-24 BEFORE C OF C ISSUED.
- 05/91 PSN SUBMITS EXEMPTION REQUEST TO BUILD VSC-24 BEFORE C OF C ISSUED.

# PALISADES ISFSI

## SCHEDULE

### I. ORIGINAL

- VSC C OF C ISSUED BEFORE 4/91.
- 8 CASKS FABRICATED BEFORE 8/91.
- 3 CASKS LOADED BEFORE 11/91.

### II. PRESENT

- PSN RECEIVE EXEMPTION BEFORE 8/15/91.
- AT LEAST 3 CASKS FABRICATED BEFORE 4/15/92.
- CREWS TRAINED TO USE VSC-24 SYSTEM BEFORE 4/15/92.
- CPC REQUESTS WRITTEN ASSURANCE FROM NRC BEFORE 8/1/91 THAT C OF C FOR VSC-24 WILL BE ISSUED BEFORE 4/92, OR WRITTEN NRC ASSURANCE THAT IF CPC'S 5/24/91 EXEMPTION REQUEST HAS NOT BEEN APPROVED AND VSC-24 C OF C HAS NOT BEEN ISSUED, AND NEED FOR FCD OCCURS, NRC WILL PROCESS EXEMPTION REQUEST AS AN EMERGENCY SITUATION.

## MEETING ATTENDEES

JULY 10, 1991

## CONSUMERS POWER AND NRC

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AFFILIATION</u>
Brain Holian	NRC/PD31/DRPW
John Greeves	NRC/NMSS
Fritz Sturz	NRC/NMSS/IMSB
Ann Hodgdon	NRC/OGC
Linda Roche	NRC/NMSS/IMSB
John Zwolinski	NRC/DRPW
Tad Marsh	NRC/PD31/DPRW
K.C. Leu	NRC/NMSS/IMSB
Dick Smedley	CPO
Gerald Slade	CPO

Mr. Kenneth W. Berry  
Consumers Power Company

Big Rock Point Plant and  
Palisades Plant

cc

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Regional Administrator, Region III  
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Nuclear Facilities and  
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DISTRIBUTION FOR MEETING SUMMARY DATED: July 26, 1991

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Docket File

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