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Palisades Nuclear Plant: 27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway, Covert, MI 49043

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Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
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**DOCKET 50-255 - LICENSE DPR-20 - PALISADES PLANT -  
INFORMATION CONCERNING MODIFICATION OF THE REACTOR PROTECTIVE SYSTEM**

The Reactor Protective System (RPS) at the Palisades Plant is being modified to replace aging components, for which replacement parts are difficult to obtain, with newer components. In addition, the Flow Setpoint Selector Switch, which was used to adjust the High Power and Low Flow trip setpoints in the original RPS configuration but is no longer used, is being removed.

The replacement components are functionally equivalent to the components which they replace, but are of a newer design. The replacement components do not rely on digital technology. They are being supplied by the original RPS supplier, Combustion Engineering. The modification is being performed under the provisions of 10 CFR 50.59 and, therefore, does not require prior NRC approval. Due to the importance of the RPS on reactor safety, the details of the modification package are enclosed for your information.

The subject modifications to the RPS do not involve changes to the safety analyses or involve addition of any new equipment which must function to accomplish the assumptions of the safety analyses and, therefore, do not involve changes to the Technical Specifications by requiring addition of any Limiting Conditions for Operation or Surveillance Requirements. The modifications do not create any conflict with the existing Technical Specifications requirements. The modifications, therefore, do not involve a change in the Technical Specifications. The RPS modifications do not involve an unreviewed safety question, as defined in 10 CFR 50.59.

One existing Technical Specifications surveillance requirement, although still capable of being performed, will no longer be meaningful once the RPS modifications are accomplished. The subject surveillance requirement concerns verifying the proper settings of trip setpoint potentiometers for non-operating pump combinations. These potentiometers would not currently be used if three

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pump operation was utilized; instead, each channel would be adjusted to the required setting. The RPS modification will remove these potentiometers and the associated switch. Setpoint changes for different pump combinations will be made by adjusting each channel in turn. A Technical Specifications change request is being prepared which requests removal of this surveillance requirement in order to avoid unnecessary testing of the RPS. Approval of that Technical Specifications change request is not required in order to operate with the modified RPS.

Enclosure 1 describes the physical and administrative requirements for the replacement components; Enclosure 2 is a Functional Description of the modification.



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CC: Administrator, Region III, USNRC  
NRC Resident Inspector

Enclosures