

September 10, 1993

Docket No. 50-255

Consumers Power Company
ATTN: Gerald B. Slade
General Manager
Palisades Nuclear Generating Plant
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway
Covert, MI 49043

Dear Mr. Slade:

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR SENIOR REACTOR OPERATOR UPGRADE VICE SENIOR
REACTOR OPERATOR INSTANT EXAMINATIONS

This is in response to your letter dated May 21, 1993 requesting two senior reactor operator (SRO) license candidates be administered an SRO upgrade examination vice an SRO instant examination in March 1994. The basis for this request was that the two individuals were previously licensed reactor operators (RO) at Palisades.

A review of docket files correspondence between NRC and Palisades indicated that one candidate's license expired in November 1989, and the other candidate's license expired in January 1990. Both expirations were based on reassignment at Palisades to a position that did not require an NRC license and therefore, neither candidate has performed licensed duties within the last three years.

SRO instant operating test requirements are more comprehensive than SRO upgrade operating test requirements. The candidates would not meet the criteria for a waiver of operating test requirements as specified by 10 CFR 55.47(a)(1), "Has had extensive actual operating experience at a comparable facility, as determined by the Commission, within two years before the date of application." Therefore, the request for administration of an SRO upgrade vice SRO instant examination to the two candidates is denied. The candidates will be administered SRO instant examinations.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please call Jay Lennartz at (708) 790-5651.

Original signed by Mark A. Ring

Mark A. Ring, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

See Attached Distribution

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Lennartz/cg
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Burdick
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Distribution

cc: David P. Hoffman, Vice President
Nuclear Operations
David W. Rogers, Safety
and Licensing Director
OC/LFDCB
Resident Inspector, RIII
James R. Padgett, Michigan Public
Service Commission
Michigan Department of
Public Health
LPM, NRR
SRI, Big Rock Point

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