

July 12, 1994

Mr. Robert A. Fenech  
 Vice President, Nuclear Operations  
 Consumers Power Company  
 Palisades Plant  
 27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway  
 Covert, Michigan 49043

Dear Mr. Fenech:

SUBJECT: PALISADES PLANT - INTERIM SAFETY EVALUATION OF PRESSURIZED THERMAL SHOCK (PTS) AND UPPER-SHELF ENERGY (USE) ANALYSES (TAC NO. M83227)

By letters dated August 31, 1990, and February 23, 1994, you submitted for staff review your evaluation of the effect of neutron radiation on the PTS screening criteria and the Charpy USE for the Palisades reactor vessel. This latest submittal described the revised best estimate weld material chemistry, using a weighted average method, and included data from H. B. Robinson and Oyster Creek surveillance welds. The staff has completed its evaluation of the above submitted information and the results from the evaluation are documented in the enclosed Interim Safety Evaluation. This Interim Safety Evaluation supersedes the Interim Safety Evaluation issued on April 10, 1992.

Based on the review, the staff concludes that the Palisades reactor vessel will reach the PTS screening criteria in the year 2004, and the USE will be at least 50 ft-lb at the expiration of the Palisades license in 2007.

You have demonstrated good initiative in implementing a program to acquire additional data using the retired steam generators which have weld metal that was fabricated using the same heat of weld wire as the limiting weld in the Palisades reactor vessel beltline. This program will provide additional confidence in the Palisades reactor vessel PTS evaluation.

The conclusion with respect to the PTS screening criteria could change depending on the test results from the retired steam generators. These test results are expected to be available by November 1994.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Anthony H. Hsia, Project Manager  
 Project Directorate III-1  
 Division of Reactor Projects III/IV  
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Enclosure:  
 Interim Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosure:  
 See next page

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DFOI

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cc:

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DATED: July 12, 1994

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