



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 28, 1996

Mr. Richard W. Smedley
Manager, Licensing
Palisades Plant
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway
Covert, MI 49043

SUBJECT: SAFETY EVALUATION OF THE INSERVICE INSPECTION PROGRAM RELIEF
REQUESTS FOR SNUBBER INSPECTIONS FOR THE CONSUMERS POWER COMPANY
PALISADES NUCLEAR PLANT (TAC NO. M94524)

Dear Mr. Smedley:

By letter dated January 17, 1996, Consumers Power Company (CPCo) submitted a request for approval of a snubber examination program alternative to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section XI, requirements for the Palisades Nuclear Plant, Second 10-Year Interval Inservice Inspection (ISI) Program Plan.

The Code of Federal Regulations, 10 CFR 50.55a, generally requires that ISI of certain ASME Code Class 1, 2, and 3 components be performed in accordance with Section XI of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code applicable Edition and Addenda. However, proposed alternatives may be approved by the staff pursuant to paragraphs (a)(3)(i) and (a)(3)(ii) of 10 CFR 50.55a.

The staff has reviewed and evaluated the information concerning the ISI program request for approval of an alternative test program submitted for the CPCo Palisades Nuclear Plant. The staff's evaluations and conclusions are contained in the enclosed safety evaluation.

The staff concludes that CPCo's proposal to perform the ISI program snubber inservice visual inspections in accordance with Palisades Technical Specification 4.16.1 in conjunction with the visual examination acceptance criteria of OMa-1988, Part 4 is acceptable as an alternate method to the inservice examination requirements of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Subsection XI, Subarticle IWF 5300, paragraph (a). The staff has determined that the proposed alternative, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i), provides an acceptable level of quality and safety.

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Mr. Richard W. Smedley
Consumers Power Company

Palisades Plant

cc:

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Plant General Manager
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Covert, Michigan 49043

Mr. R. W. Smedley

-2-

June 28, 1996

If you have any questions regarding this review, please contact
Marsha Gamberoni at (301) 415-3024.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By: *R. Connaughton for*

Mark Reinhart, Acting Director
Project Directorate III-1
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No.: 50-255

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation w/att

cc w/encl: See next page

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