

December 28, 19

Mr. Nathan L. Haskell
Director, Licensing
Palisades Plant
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway
Covert, MI 49043

SUBJECT: PALISADES PLANT - EVALUATION OF REQUEST TO USE ASME OMa-1996
SUBSECTION ISTD FOR SNUBBER EXAMINATIONS (TAC NO. M99656)

Dear Mr. Haskell:

By letter dated March 13, 1998, you submitted a request for the staff to authorize Consumers Energy's use of ASME OMa-1996, Subsection ISTD, *Preservice and Inservice Examination and Testing of Dynamic Restraints (Snubbers) In Light Water Reactors*, as an alternative to the requirements of ASME OMa-1988(ASME/ANSI OM-1987) Part 4 at the Palisades Plant. This request supersedes your snubber relief request dated September 3, 1997.

ASME OMa-1996, Subsection ISTD, is contained in the ASME *Code for Operation and Maintenance of Nuclear Power Plants*, 1995 Edition, 1996 Addenda. By regulation (10 CFR 50.55a), through reference, the NRC endorses ASME Code requirements regarding inservice examination. The NRC has completed its review of the OM Code 1995 Edition, 1996 Addenda and proposed an amendment to 10 CFR 50.55a for endorsement to permit voluntary implementation of the OM Code, Subsection ISTD, 1995 Edition with the 1996 Addenda when the final rule is published.

The staff has reviewed the information contained in your request and has concluded that your proposed alternative for snubber examinations provides an acceptable level of quality and safety. Therefore, the proposed alternative is authorized pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i) on an interim basis until the final rule is published.

A copy of our related safety evaluation is enclosed. If you have any questions concerning this action please call Robert G. Schaaf of my staff at (301) 415-1312.

Sincerely,

Original signed by: cac

Cynthia A. Carpenter, Director
Project Directorate III-1
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-255
Enclosure: Safety Evaluation
cc w/encl: See next page

DISTRIBUTION: See attached page

NRC FILE CENTER COPY

11
DF01

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\PD31\WPDOCS\PALISADE\PAL99656.RLF

*No significant changes to SE.

To receive a copy of this document, indicate in the box: "C" = Copy without attachment/enclosure "E" = Copy with attachment/enclosure "N" = No copy

OFFICE	PM:PD31	E	LA:PD31	E	BC:EMEB*	OGC	D:PD31
NAME	RSchaaf:db		CJamerson		RWessman	Uta	CACarpenter
DATE	11/27/98		11/27/98		6/18/98	12/2/98	12/22/98

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

9901050442 981228
PDR ADOCK 05000255
PDR

Mr. Nathan L. Haskell
Consumers Energy Company

Palisades Plant

cc:

Mr. Thomas J. Palmisano
Site Vice President
Palisades Plant
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway
Covert, Michigan 49043

Drinking Water and Radiological
Protection Division
Michigan Department of
Environmental Quality
3423 N. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd
P. O. Box 30630 CPH Mailroom
Lansing, Michigan 48909-8130

Mr. Robert A. Fenech, Sr Vice Pres
Nuclear, Fossil, and Hydro Operations
Consumers Energy Company
212 West Michigan Avenue
Jackson, Michigan 49201

Michigan Department of Attorney
General
Special Litigation Division
630 Law Building
P.O. Box 30212
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Arunas T. Udrys, Esquire
Consumers Energy Company
212 West Michigan Avenue
Jackson, Michigan 49201

Regional Administrator, Region III
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
801 Warrenville Road
Lisle, Illinois 60532-4351

Jerry Sarno, Supervisor
Covert Township
P. O. Box 35
Covert, Michigan 49043

Office of the Governor
P. O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48909

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Resident Inspector's Office
Palisades Plant
27782 Blue Star Memorial Highway
Covert, Michigan 49043

DISTRIBUTION FOR RELIEF REQUEST DATED: December 28, 1998

Docket File (50-255)

PUBLIC

PD# 3-1 Reading

E. Adensam (EGA1)

C. A. Carpenter

C. Jamerson

R. Schaaf

R. Wessman

F. Grubelich

SEDB (TLH3)

OGC

G. Hill (2)

ACRS

T. Hiltz

A. Vogel, RIII