

July 6, 1999

Mr. Thomas J. Palmisano  
Site Vice President and General Manager  
Palisades Nuclear Generating Plant  
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway  
Covert, MI 49043-9530

SUBJECT: SENIOR REACTOR ANALYST SITE VISIT

Dear Mr. Palmisano:

This refers to a meeting conducted by the Region III Senior Reactor Analysts (SRA) at the Palisades Nuclear Generating Plant in Covert, Michigan, on June 29, 1999. The purpose of the visit was to meet with your Probabilistic Safety Assessment (PSA) staff to discuss your initiatives in the risk area, and to establish a dialog between the SRAs and your PSA staff. Also discussed were your specific risk insights and risk tools used at the plant.

As you are aware, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is transitioning to a risk-informed framework for its inspection and oversight program for commercial nuclear power plants. The new program will focus our inspections on activities and systems where potential risks are greater using site-specific PSA insights. The meeting between your staff and our risk analysts provided a basis for better agreement on the importance of issues on which we will routinely interact during the risk-informed inspection and oversight program.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC's Public Document Room.

If you have any questions regarding this meeting please contact me at (630) 829-9700.

Sincerely,

Original /s/ J. A. Grobe

John A. Grobe, Director  
Division of Reactor Safety

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T. Palmisano

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