

September 3, 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: PALISADES INSPECTION REPORT 50-255/99009(DRP)

Dear Mr. Palmisano:

On August 11, 1999, the NRC completed an inspection conducted at your Palisades Nuclear Generating Plant. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

The inspection covered a 6-week period. Areas examined during the inspection are identified in the report. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of a selective examination of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observations of activities in progress. The purpose of the inspection effort was to determine whether activities authorized by the license were conducted safely and in accordance with NRC requirements.

During this inspection period, we observed that the Boric Acid Leak Inspection Program has not been effectively implemented. The inspectors identified several discrepancies regarding the program and noted that engineering personnel have not been pro-active in resolving problems for components that were included in the program. This is an issue because of the potential for degradation of susceptible components that are contacted by boric acid. We understand that in response to the above issues you have initiated corrective actions including correcting some of the observed programmatic deficiencies, establishing a "Boric Acid Leak Inspection Program - Watch List," and initiating actions to further evaluate the program.

No violations or deviations of NRC requirements were identified.

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and the enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

/s/Anton Vogel
Anton Vogel, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch 6

Docket No. 50-255
License No. DPR-20

Enclosure: Inspection Report 50-255/99009(DRP)

cc w/encl: R. Fenech, Senior Vice President, Nuclear
Fossil and Hydro Operations
N. Haskell, Director, Licensing
R. Whale, Michigan Public Service Commission
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Department of Attorney General (MI)
Emergency Management Division, MI Department
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