



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

October 13, 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 50-255/99010(DRP)

Dear Mr. Palmisano:

On September 21, 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 a positive focus on safety was demonstrated by your staff as evidenced by: 1) reducing power slightly to eliminate spurious pre-trip alarms that momentarily annunciated in the control room; and 2) the pro-active actions taken to ensure that the minimum required staffing for emergency response personnel could be achieved, if needed, during the Unusual Event on September 7, 1999. In addition, we noted that your operations, maintenance, and engineering staffs coordinated effectively in responding to several emergent equipment issues.

In the performance area of radiological protection; however, we observed two operators not following procedural requirements regarding contamination control. We understand that there were no radiological consequences as a result of this error, and that you took immediate corrective action to address this issue.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that one violation of NRC requirements occurred, concerning adherence to radiological protection procedure requirements. This violation is being treated as a Non-Cited Violation (NCV), consistent with Appendix C of the Enforcement Policy. The NCV is described in the subject inspection report. If you contest the violation or severity level of the NCV, you should provide a response within 30 days of the date of this inspection report, with the basis for your denial, to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Document Control Desk, Washington, DC 20555-0001, with copies to the Regional Administrator, Region III, and the Director, Office of Enforcement, United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

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Q PDR

T. Palmisano

-2-

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, the enclosure, and your response, if you choose to provide one, 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 50-255/99010(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
of State Police

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See previous concurrences

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T. Palmisano

-3-

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