



**Consumers
Power**

**POWERING
MICHIGAN'S PROGRESS**

Palisades Nuclear Plant: 27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway, Covert, MI 49043

Thomas C. Bordine
Manager, Licensing

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Washington, DC 20555

DOCKET 50-255 - LICENSE DPR-20 - PALISADES PLANT
NOTIFICATION UNDER 10 CFR PART 50.46 OF ERROR IN ECCS CALCULATION RESULTS

10 CFR Part 50.46(a)(3)(ii) requires a 30-day report whenever a significant change or error in the Emergency Core Cooling System (ECCS) analysis occurs. "Significant" is defined in 10 CFR Part 50.46(a)(3)(i) as being a change of greater than 50°F in the peak cladding temperature. An input error by Siemens Power Corporation which resulted in an overprediction of peak cladding temperature by 104°F, was reported internal to Siemens on May 4, 1995. This error was not reported to Palisades until December 20, 1996. This letter submits the required report.

Siemens internal correspondence dated May 4, 1995, described several errors found in the ECCS analysis for a postulated Large Break Loss of Coolant Accident (LB LOCA) at Palisades. Siemens had originally reported a peak clad temperature of 2095°F for Palisades cycle 12. With the errors corrected, the new peak clad temperature for Cycle 12 was 1991°F, a reduction of 104°F. This change should have caused Siemens to immediately notify Palisades based on 10 CFR Part 50.46(a)(3)(ii). However, Siemens concluded that formal notification was not required since they had determined that the errors were "conservative and there are no unresolved safety issues arising from these errors." The errors discussed in the Siemens letter were corrected during Cycle 12, and thus have no impact on the current ECCS analysis for a LB LOCA. Palisades was then and remains in compliance with 10 CFR Part 50.46(b).

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These errors were found during a special utility assessment of Siemens, initiated and led by Consumers Power Company, to follow up on recently reported LB LOCA methodology concerns. Once the errors were discovered, Siemens began an internal investigation of the event and determined that Palisades should be formally notified. This notification was provided on December 20, 1996.

Additional reviews of past events were performed by Nuclear Fuel Users Group Assessment Teams and no other items significant to Palisades were found.

SUMMARY OF COMMITMENTS

This letter contains no new commitments and no revisions to existing commitments.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas C. Bordine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Thomas" being more prominent than the last name "Bordine".

Thomas C. Bordine
Manager, Licensing

CC Administrator, Region III, USNRC
Project Manager, NRR, USNRC
NRC Resident Inspector - Palisades