

May 9 1997

Mr. Thomas C. Bordine
Manager, Licensing
Palisades Plant
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway
Covert, MI 49043

SUBJECT: PALISADES PLANT - GENERIC LETTER 96-04, "BORAFLEX DEGRADATION IN SPENT FUEL POOL STORAGE RACKS (TAC NO. M95981)

Dear Mr. Bordine:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your response dated October 24, 1996, to NRC Generic Letter (GL) 96-04. GL 96-04 was issued June 26, 1996, to all nuclear power reactor licensees. It requested licensees that use Boraflex as a neutron absorber in their spent fuel storage racks to assess the capability of the Boraflex to maintain a 5-percent subcriticality margin and to submit a plan to the NRC describing proposed actions if this subcriticality margin cannot be maintained due to Boraflex degradation. Your response stated that the Boraflex at Palisades is currently assessed to be fully capable of performing its criticality control function. You also provided a description of your process for monitoring for Boraflex degradation. A description of the results of previous testing, plans for additional testing, and fuel pool silica levels and their relationship to Boraflex performance were also provided.

Based on the information provided, we consider your response to GL 96-04 to be complete. This completes staff action on TAC No. M95981. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1312, or the Lead Project Manager for this issue, Steven Bloom, at (301) 415-1313.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Robert G. Schaaf, Project Manager
Project Directorate III-1
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-255

cc: See next page

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Mr. Thomas C. Bordine
Consumers Power Company

Palisades Plant

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