

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

June 11, 1997

SUBJECT: PALISADES PLANT - SAFETY EVALUATION OF RELIEF REQUEST
NUMBER 8 FOR THE PUMP AND VALVE INSERVICE TESTING
PROGRAM (TAC NO. M98063)

Dear Mr. Bordin:

Consumers Power Company submitted Relief Request Number 8 for the Palisades Plant Inservice Testing (IST) Program by letter dated February 28, 1997. The current Palisades IST program is based on the requirements of Section XI of the 1989 Edition of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code. The Code specifies that rules for the inservice testing of pumps are stated in the ASME/ANSI Operations and Maintenance (OM) Standards, Part 6, "Inservice Testing of Pumps in Light-Water Reactor Power Plants (OM-6). Your letter requested relief from the frequency response range requirements of OM-6, Paragraph 4.6.1.6, for charging pumps P-55A, P-55B, and P-55C based on your determination that complying with the frequency response range requirements of OM-6 would be impractical for these low-speed pumps.

The staff finds that the proposed alternative to the Code requirements provides reasonable assurance of operational readiness and, based on the impracticality of complying with the Code requirements, the staff concludes that the relief request may be granted pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(f)(6)(i). The staff has determined that this relief is authorized by law and will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security and is otherwise in the public interest giving due consideration to the burden upon the licensee that could result if the requirements were imposed. The staff's evaluation of the relief request is provided in the enclosed safety evaluation. This completes our review effort under TAC Number M98063.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

John N. Hannon, Director
Project Directorate III-1
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Docket No. 50-255

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation
*SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCE
cc w/encl: See next page

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Consumers Power Company

Palisades Plant

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April 1997