

October 14, 1998

Mr. Nathan L. Haskell
Director, Licensing
Palisades Plant
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway
Covert, MI 49043

SUBJECT: PALISADES PLANT - CORRECTION TO SAFETY EVALUATION OF THE THIRD
120-MONTH INTERVAL INSERVICE INSPECTION PROGRAM AND
ASSOCIATED REQUESTS FOR RELIEF (TAC NO. M93628)

Dear Mr. Haskell:

By letter dated January 9, 1997, we transmitted the staff's safety evaluation (SE) and Idaho National Engineering Laboratory's (INEL) technical evaluation report (TER) related to the Palisades Plant Third 10-year Interval Inservice Inspection (ISI) Program Plan and associated Requests for Relief. Your staff subsequently identified a discrepancy between the staff's SE and the INEL TER regarding Request for Relief No. RR-11.

The staff's SE, in the last paragraph on page 2, states: "The licensee's proposed alternative to perform manual examinations from the *outside surface* of the reactor pressure vessel (RPV) lower head meridional welds provides reasonable assurance of operational readiness of the RPV lower head meridional welds." The INEL TER, in the third paragraph on page 10, states: "The examinations that can be performed from the *inside surface* will provide reasonable assurance of structural integrity for the lower head meridional welds." Emphasis has been added in both references.

We have reviewed this discrepancy and have determined that an error was made in preparing the staff's SE. The staff's SE should state, "The licensee's proposed alternative to perform manual examinations from the *inside surface* of the reactor pressure vessel (RPV) lower head meridional welds provides reasonable assurance of operational readiness of the RPV lower head meridional welds." A corrected staff SE is enclosed. The enclosed SE also includes a footnote that updates the status of Request for Relief RR-09. We regret any inconvenience this error may have caused. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Robert Schaaf of my staff at (301) 415-1312.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
Cynthia A. Carpenter, Project Director
Project Directorate III-1
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Docket No. 50-255

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Mr. Nathan L. Haskell
Consumers Energy Company

Palisades Plant

cc:

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Distribution for Letter to Consumers Energy Co., Palisades Plant, dated: October 14, 1998

Docket File (50-255)

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