



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

November 5, 1998

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 50-255/98017(DRP)

Dear Mr. Palmisano:

On October 7, 1998, 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 7-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 observation 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.

Your staff's conduct of operations was professional with a focus on safety. We noted that the Senior Reactor Operators' command and control of control room activities was generally good with one noted exception. Overall, this reflected an improvement in this area from previous inspection periods. Also, the control room operators demonstrated a good questioning attitude regarding scheduled activities on a more frequent basis. Your engineering staff provided the licensed operators with an effective tool to monitor steady state reactor power. This tool was implemented as part of your staff's efforts to raise steady state reactor power to 99.9 percent from the previously administratively limited 99.6 percent.

No violations or deviations of NRC requirements were identified.

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T. Palmisano

-2-

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-2-

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and the enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

/s/Bruce L. Burgess
Bruce L. Burgess, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch 6

Docket No.: 50-255
License No.: DPR-20

Enclosure: Inspection Report 50-255/98017(DRP)

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