



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

October 16, 1978

Docket No. 50-255

Consumers Power Company  
ATTN: Mr. David Bixel  
Nuclear Licensing Administrator  
212 West Michigan Avenue  
Jackson, Michigan 49201

Gentlemen:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 44 to Provisional Operating License No. DPR-20 for the Palisades Plant. This amendment consists of changes to the Technical Specifications in response to your request dated November 24, 1976, as supplemented by letter dated October 28, 1977.

This amendment authorizes deletion of a requirement to perform weekly monitoring of fish impingement on the intake traveling screens.

Specification 4.11.4(i) requires sampling of the Palisades traveling screens during one 24-hour period each week. During the 1975 eight-month sampling period (May-December), a total of 448 organisms representing 9 species was collected. During the same period in 1976 a total of 466 organisms representing 9 species was collected. For the sampling period January to September 1977, 329 organisms were collected representing 6 species. Alewives accounted for about 45% of the total organisms collected in 1975-1977 while slimy sculpins accounted for about 13%. However, in 1976 and 1977 crayfish made up relatively larger percentages accounting for 46% and 64%, respectively. Total yearly impingement estimates ranged from 3,000 to 4,000 organisms.

Since 1974, the Palisades station located on Lake Michigan has been operated as a closed cycle system after having changed from once-through condenser cooling to mechanical draft cooling towers. Evaluations of fish impingement data made in the FES-OL and Addendum to the FES indicated that about 400,000 fish/year were impinged on the traveling screens using once-through cooling. That level of impingement, based on preliminary fish monitoring

7510270275 P

October 16, 1978

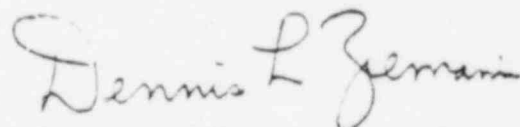
data, was not found to be having a detrimental influence on the local fish populations (FES Addendum p.2-6). Although the impingement data from the different cooling modes is not strictly comparable because of different impingement sampling frequencies and the different years involved, it is, nevertheless, apparent that impingement is greatly reduced. The staff concludes that the impingement monitoring program can be deleted as the data collected show that impingement has been reduced and numbers collected using closed-cycle cooling are not predicted to create a significant adverse effect on species populations in the site vicinity.

We have evaluated the potential for environmental impact of plant operation in accordance with the enclosed amendment. The amendment applies to non-radiological environmental surveillance. We have determined that the amendment does not authorize a change in effluent types or total amounts nor an increase in power level, and will not result in any significant environmental impact. Having made this determination, we have further concluded that the amendment involves an action which is insignificant from the standpoint of environmental impact and pursuant to 10 CFR §51.5(d)(4) that an environmental impact statement, negative declaration or environmental impact appraisal need not be prepared in connection with the issuance of this amendment.

Since the amendment applies only to non-radiological environmental surveillance, it does not involve significant new safety information of a type not considered by a previous Commission safety review of the facility. It does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident, does not involve a significant decrease in a safety margin, and therefore does not involve a significant hazards consideration. We have also concluded that there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by this action.

A copy of the related Notice of Issuance is also enclosed.

Sincerely,



Dennis L. Ziemann, Chief  
Operating Reactors Branch #2  
Division of Operating Reactors

Enclosures:

1. Amendment No. 44 to DPR-20
2. Notice of Issuance

cc w/enclosures: See next page

Consumers Power Company

- 3 -

October 16, 1978

cc

M. I. Miller, Esquire  
Isham, Lincoln & Beale  
Suite 4200  
One First National Plaza  
Chicago, Illinois 60670

Judd L. Bacon, Esquire  
Consumers Power Company  
212 West Michigan Avenue  
Jackson, Michigan 49201

Paul A. Perry, Secretary  
Consumers Power Company  
212 West Michigan Avenue  
Jackson, Michigan 49201

Myron M. Cherry, Esquire  
Suite 4501  
One IBM Plaza  
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Kalamazoo Public Library  
315 South Rose Street  
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49006

Township Supervisor  
Covert Township  
Route 1, Box 10  
Van Buren County, Michigan 49043

\*\*Mr. William R. Rustem (2)  
Office of the Governor  
Room 1 - Capitol Building  
Lansing, Michigan 48913

Director, Technical Assessment  
Division  
Office of Radiation Programs  
(AW-459)  
US EPA  
Crystal Mall #2  
Arlington, Virginia 20460

\*\* (w/copy of letter dtd. 11/24/76 and  
a supplemental letter dtd. 10/28/77)

U. S. Environmental Protection  
Agency  
Federal Activities Branch  
Region V Office  
ATTN: EIS COORDINATOR  
230 South Dearborn Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60604