

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONCONSUMERS POWER COMPANYPALISADES PLANTDCKET NO. 50-255ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment from the requirements of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 to Consumers Power Company, (the licensee), for the Palisades Plant, located in Covert Township, Van Buren County, Michigan.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action: The exemption would grant relief from the requirements of Appendix R, Section III.G.(2)(d) as these requirements relate to the separation of cables and instrumentation in the Containment Air Room. Section III.G(2)(d) of Appendix R would require the subject cables and equipment to be separated by 20 feet, free of intervening combustibles, since these cables and equipment comprise redundant trains of equipment required for post-fire, safe shutdown, of the reactor.

The exemption is in response to the licensee's application for exemption dated October 4, 1985, as supplemented August 8, 1990.

The Need for the Proposed Action: The proposed exemption is needed because the features described in the licensee's request regarding the existing and proposed fire protection at the plant for the Containment Air Room comprise the most practical method for meeting the intent of Appendix R; and, literal compliance would not significantly enhance the fire protection capability.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action: The proposed exemption will provide a degree of fire protection such that there is no increase in the risk of fires at this facility. Based on the amount and type of combustibles, and type of ignition source, a fire in the Containment Air Room is extremely unlikely. If a fire were to occur it would most likely be a small self-extinguishing fire that would generate dense smoke. If a much larger fire were to occur, the licensee has analysed its effect on safety related instrumentation in the room and shown that sufficient instruments would be operable to safely shutdown the plant. The proposed exemption does not include any alterations to the Containment Air Room or its existing fire protection capabilities; consequently, the probability of fires has not been increased and the potential for post-fire radiological releases will not be greater than previously determined. Additionally, the proposed exemption does not otherwise affect radiological plant effluents. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed exemption involves features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternative to the Proposed Action: It has been concluded that there is no measurable impact associated with the proposed exemption and associated license amendment; any alternatives to the exemption will have either no environmental impact or greater environmental impact.

Alternative Use of Resources: This action involves no use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statements for the Palisades Plant.

Agencies and Persons Consulted: The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's requests and did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

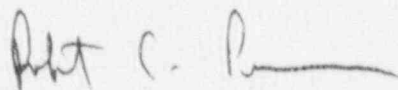
The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated October 4, 1985, as supplemented August 8, 1990, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. and at the Van Zoeren Library, Hope College, Holland, Michigan.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 23rd day of November 1990.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


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