



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 176 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-20
CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY
PALISADES PLANT
DOCKET NO. 50-255

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated March 27, 1997, as supplemented July 7, 1997, Consumers Energy Company (the licensee, requested changes to the Facility Operating License No. DPR-20 and the Technical Specifications (TS) appended to Facility Operating License No. DPR-20 for the Palisades Plant. The amendment would revise the company name from Consumers Power Company to Consumers Energy Company.

The July 7, 1997, letter provided supplementary information within the scope of the original application and did not change the NRC staff's initial proposed no significant hazards considerations determination.

2.0 BACKGROUND

In the March 27, 1997, letter, the licensee makes the following statement:

"the corporate existence continues uninterrupted, and all legal characteristics remain the same. Thus, there is no change in the ownership, state of incorporation, registered agent, registered office, directors, officers, rights or liabilities of the Company, nor is there a change in the function of the Company or the way in which it does business. The Company's financial responsibility for the Palisades Plant and its sources of funds to support the facility will remain the same. Further, this name change does not impact the Company's ability to comply with any of its obligations or responsibilities under the license."

3.0 EVALUATION

The name change should have no effect or impact on the regulatory obligations of the licensee under the laws and regulations administered by the Commission or the licensee's qualifications to hold the license and should not change in any way the business of the licensee with the Commission. There should be no change in the safety and security of the public from the name change and the antitrust condition applicable to Consumers Power Company will continue to apply to Consumers Energy Company. We find the proposed changes to Facility Operating License No. DPR-20 and to the Technical Specifications (TS) appended to Facility Operating License No. DPR-20 for the Palisades Plant to be administrative in nature and therefore acceptable.

4.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the Michigan State official was notified of the proposed issuance of the amendment. The Michigan State official had no comments.

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22, 51.32, 51.35, an environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact has been prepared and published in the Federal Register on May 10, 1997, (62 FR 29378). Accordingly, based upon the environmental assessment, the staff has determined that the issuance of the amendment will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

6.0 CONCLUSION

The Commission has concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that: (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and (3) the issuance of the amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

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Date: July 21, 1997