

MAY 16 1986

Docket No. 50-255

Consumers Power Company
ATTN: Dr. F. W. Buckman
Vice President
Nuclear Operations
212 West Michigan Avenue
Jackson, MI 49201

Gentlemen:

This refers to a special task force review of the operating history of the Palisades Nuclear Plant conducted by NRC Region III and NRC contractors during the period January 10 - March 7, 1986. The task force charter was to determine whether or not problems existed at the Palisades Nuclear Plant which had not been highlighted previously by either NRC or Consumers Power. Further, a three year time period from 1983 through 1985 was selected as a basis for this in-depth review. This period was defined to ensure that sufficient information was reviewed so that long term trends could be observed and meaningful conclusions could be reached.

The enclosed report documenting our review efforts identifies areas examined. Within these areas, the review consisted of a selective examination of procedures and representative records, observations, and interviews with personnel.

While no violations of NRC requirements were identified as a result of this review, a number of weaknesses were identified which require your attention. General weaknesses are identified in the Executive Summary of the enclosed report with additional specificity provided in Section VI, "Conclusions," and include the following areas:

- ° Recurrent equipment problems which have required significant operator attention.
- ° Procedure adherence.
- ° Quality of procedures and timeliness of procedure changes.
- ° Thoroughness of reviews and scope of corrective actions.

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You are requested to provide Region III by June 2, 1986 your response to the weaknesses identified in the Executive Summary and Conclusions sections of the enclosed report. This response should include your perception of the weaknesses and any corrective actions you have taken or will take regarding these weaknesses.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the Commission's Regulations, a copy of this letter, the enclosure, and your response to this letter will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

The responses requested by this letter are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, PL 96-511.

We will discuss any questions you have concerning this review.

Sincerely

Original Signed by E.G. Greenman

Charles E. Norelius, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Enclosure: Final Report of Task
Force Review of Operational
History for Palisades

cc w/enclosure:

Mr. Kenneth W. Berry, Director
Nuclear Licensing
J. F. Firlit, General Manager
DCS/RSB (RIDS)
Licensing Fee Management Branch
Resident Inspector, RIII
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