

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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**Docket:** NRC-2021-0036

Palisades Nuclear Plant and Big Rock Point Plant Consideration of Approval of Transfer of Control of Licenses and Conforming Amendments

**Comment On:** NRC-2021-0036-0001

Palisades Nuclear Plant and Big Rock Point Plant Consideration of Approval of Transfer of Control of Licenses and Conforming Amendments

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## General Comment

Docket ID NRC-2021-0036

This is my public comment on the sale of Palisades and Big Rock to Holtec.

I have been a resident of MI & have known the Great Lakes before a single nuclear reactor was built on them. When I was a child, I swam in Lake Michigan and the water was so clean you could drink it. It had no taste. Now it does and I no longer feel safe on the beaches. The fact is that Palisades should have been shut down long ago. It has been running with tritium leaking under the plant and in an embrittled aging state, at risk of shattering. There were times of serious internal accidents including a near melt down with a sump pump malfunction when the back up sump pump was being repaired. Workers have had to go through hours of decontamination because of radiation exposures. I remember when Palisades tried to hide a leak above the control room from the NRC which could have shorted out electrical equipment. There is a lack of security at the plant. The pile up of nuclear waste at both Palisades and Big Rock Point is a serious threat that will not go away. When residents complained of alarms going off in the middle of the night, the response was to shut off the sirens. What triggered them? Now there is the issue of rising lake water levels and serious beach erosion which contribute to the destabilization of nuclear plants close to water. These are only a few of the concerns that I have about the existence of nuclear reactors on our precious resource of fresh water, the Great Lakes.

When ENTERGY bought Palisades from Consumers Power they said they would not do the repairs that Consumers promised it would do to obtain a license extension. NRC allowed ENTERGY to make decisions not to repair things. ENTERGY said it would shut Palisades in 2018 to decommission it because it could not afford the repairs, but when a Judge would not allow ENTERGY to raise ratepayers fees and said they needed to use the money collected in the fund for decommissioning, they said they could not afford the costs. They then continued to run the nuclear power plant regardless of risk. Now ENTERGY wants to ditch its obligations and sell to HOLTEC. HOLTEC has a bad track record. They want concessions to raid the decommissioning fund. They want all the nuclear waste without any clear

plan for permanent safe storage. They want the NRC to loosen its rules. As someone who has witnessed what has happened through the years, I believe there is no time like the present to decommission Palisades. However, HOLTEC does not propose enough money to adequately do the job or a clear plan of action. They instead propose to keep the plant running to increase the fund for decommissioning (and to raid the existing fund). I believe that the LLC shell company (via internal manipulations) will leave the public hanging with liability and risk without a thorough and safely monitored process. The nuclear industry is not capable of monitoring itself. It needs to be under the supervision of the NRC and the STATE of MICHIGAN. The people deserve more that the loss of the waters so important to the health, beauty and welfare of our state and people.

I would like to ask, what is ENTERGY and HOLTEC trying to hide in this? Why the rush to decommission when it is not decommissioning that will happen, but more stalling. Why does HOLTEC want the nuclear waste? What will they do with it? Why do they assume it is legal to use the decommissioning money for that and keep the plant running for the rest? It will take years of deliberate and careful and safe operations to safely remove the nuclear power plants from the Great Lakes. Because tritium has been leaking underneath Palisades for over a decade, there may be a lot of radioactive material to remove, not just a few feet. Sand is porous and the radioactive effluents could have leaked out in a plume far deeper. The routine radioactive releases into the air and lake can never be retrieved, but at least with proper decommissioning, it could stop more releases. Because there have been so many issues within the plant itself, the concrete and building materials will also have to be safely removed and relocated, not dumped. HOLTEC? I do not think they are capable of honestly doing the work that needs to be done. Their own proposals prove it. Yes, it needs to be decommissioned, but not like that. What they are really asking for the money in the decommissioning fund and the money from keeping the plant running,, regardless of risk. To this I say NO NO and NO! Thank you for allowing me the opportunity of commenting. Kathryn Barnes, Member DON'T WASTE MICHIGAN