



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

June 28, 2024

Scott Hicks, Field Supervisor  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Michigan Ecological Services  
Field Office  
U.S. Department of Interior  
2651 Coolidge Road Suite 101  
East Lansing, MI 48823-6360

Project Code: 2024-0093462  
Project Name: Palisades Nuclear Plant Restart

**SUBJECT:** INITIATION OF SCOPING PROCESS TO PREPARE AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF HOLTEC DECOMMISSIONING INTERNATIONAL, LLC'S LICENSING AND REGULATORY REQUESTS FOR REAUTHORIZATION OF POWER OPERATIONS AT PALISADES NUCLEAR PLANT (EPID NUMBER: L-2024-LNE-0003) (DOCKET NUMBER: 50-0255)

Dear Scott Hicks,

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is conducting an environmental review for a series of licensing and regulatory requests submitted by Holtec Decommissioning International, LLC (HDI) that seek NRC approvals to reauthorize power operations at the Palisades Nuclear Plant (PNP). These requests include an exemption request, a license transfer request, and license amendment requests. Concurrently, the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Loan Programs Office (LPO)'s proposed action, pursuant to its authority under Title 17 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, as amended, is the consideration of providing Federal financial assistance (a loan guarantee) to support the reauthorization of power operations at PNP. Accordingly, the DOE LPO will serve as a cooperating agency on the environmental review while the NRC will serve as the lead Federal agency under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), and for consultation under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. The purpose of this letter is to inform you about the NRC's upcoming environmental review activities.

Enclosure 1 provides a table that lists the submittals received and the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System's (ADAMS) accession number information for the submittals and their associated NRC acceptance letters. This information can also be found on the NRC website at <https://www.nrc.gov/info-finder/reactors/pali.html>.

The PNP is located in Van Buren County, Michigan, along the shore of Lake Michigan, approximately 2.5 miles northwest of Covert Township (Enclosure 2). PNP permanently ceased operations on May 20, 2022, after more than 40 years of commercial operation. In early 2023, HDI, the licensee for PNP, expressed an interest in returning the plant to an operational status.

As mentioned, HDI is pursuing several licensing and regulatory actions to restore the operational licensing basis for the plant. The NRC will review HDI's submittals to ensure that HDI's proposal to restore the licensing basis of the plant to an operational status will comply with NRC safety, security, and environmental requirements. The licensing and regulatory requests, if approved, would allow for the placement of fuel into the reactor vessel and restart of power operations in Unit 1 for the duration of the renewed facility operating license term, which expires in 2031.

By letter dated June 18, 2024 ([ML24169A434](#)), the NRC accepted the last submittal associated with the licensing and regulatory requests to potentially reauthorize power operations at PNP. As part of the review of these requests, the NRC staff is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) as required by Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) Part 51, the NRC's regulations that implement NEPA. The NRC staff published a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register on June 27, 2024 ([89 FR 53659](#)), thereby initiating the NRC's environmental review under NEPA. This notice informs stakeholders, including the public, that the NRC intends to conduct a 30-day scoping period to gather the information necessary to prepare an EA related to the review of the licensing and regulatory requests for the potential reauthorization of power operations at PNP.

As discussed in the NOI, the NRC and DOE LPO are providing stakeholders, including the public, with the opportunity to participate in a hybrid environmental scoping meeting to be held on July 11, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. eastern time (ET), at Mendel Center, Grand Upton Hall, at Lake Michigan College, 1100 Yore Ave, Parking Lot 3, Benton Harbor, Michigan, 49022, and will also hold an open house from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. ET. Additional information including an the agenda for the meeting can be found on the NRC's Public Meeting Schedule website at <https://www.nrc.gov/pmns/mtg>.<sup>1</sup> At this meeting, the NRC and DOE LPO staff will present an overview of the environmental review process, hold a brief question and answer session, and will solicit comments on the scope of the environmental review. Stakeholders will have an opportunity to provide comments during the meeting.

In addition to the public scoping meeting, comments or concerns on the scope of the environmental review may be submitted no later than the end of the comment period on July 29, 2024, via any of the following methods:

- Email comments to: [PalisadesRestartEnvironmental@nrc.gov](mailto:PalisadesRestartEnvironmental@nrc.gov);
- Mail comments to: Office of Administration, Mail Stop: TWFN-7-A60M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, ATTN: Program Management, Announcements and Editing Staff; or
- Federal Rulemaking Website: Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2024-0076.

To support the EA development, the NRC received a list of threatened and endangered species that may occur in the location of the proposed project or may be affected by the proposed project through the Fish and Wildlife Service's Information for Planning Consultation (IPaC) system ([ML24178A000](#)). As indicated in the IPaC, the NRC's point of contact for consultation is

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<sup>1</sup> The meeting announcement can be found by going to the NRC's public meeting website at <https://www.nrc.gov/pmns/mtg> and locating the July 11<sup>th</sup> public scoping meeting entry. Additional information about the meeting (e.g., agenda) can be found by clicking the links in the scoping meeting entry.

Peyton Doub and he can be reached via email at [Peyton.Doub@nrc.gov](mailto:Peyton.Doub@nrc.gov). The NRC requests a point of contact for consultation from your agency for this project.

The NRC expects to issue the draft EA for public review and comment in January 2025. A copy of the draft EA will be made available for your review and comment.

If you have any questions on the project or the scoping meeting, please contact the environmental project managers, Laura Willingham at 301-415-0857 or via email at [Laura.Willingham@nrc.gov](mailto:Laura.Willingham@nrc.gov) or Mary Richmond at 301-415-7218 or via email at [Mary.Richmond@nrc.gov](mailto:Mary.Richmond@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,



Signed by Barnhurst, Daniel  
on 06/28/24

Daniel Barnhurst, Chief  
Environmental Project Management Branch 3  
Division of Rulemaking, Environment,  
and Financial Support  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 50-0255

Enclosures:

1. Holtec Decommissioning International, LLC,  
Submittals to Reauthorize Power Operations  
at the Palisades Nuclear Plant
2. Figure 1 – A map of the “Palisades Site Layout”  
(see dashed line for the site boundary) from the  
2006 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement  
(see Figure 2-3 in ML062710300)

cc: Listserv

SUBJECT: INITIATION OF SCOPING PROCESS TO PREPARE AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF HOLTEC DECOMMISSIONING INTERNATIONAL, LLC'S LICENSING AND REGULATORY REQUESTS FOR REAUTHORIZATION OF POWER OPERATIONS AT PALISADES NUCLEAR PLANT (EPID NUMBER: L-2024-LNE-0003) (DOCKET NUMBER: 50-0255)

DATED: June 28, 2024

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**ADAMS Accession No: ML24163A147**

**\*via E-mail**

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NAME	MSutherland	MRichmond	AWalker-Smith	LWillingham
DATE	6/18/2024	6/19/2024	6/24/2024	6/25/2024
OFFICE	BC:REFS/EPM3	BC:REFS/ETR1	OGC	BC:REFS/EPM3
NAME	DBarnhurst	MRome	MASpencer*	DBarnhurst
DATE	6/25/2024	6/25/2024	6/28/2024	6/28/2024

**OFFICIAL RECORD COPY**

Holtec Decommissioning International, LLC, Submittals to Reauthorize Power Operations at the Palisades Nuclear Plant

<b>Holtec Decommissioning International, LLC Submittal</b>	<b>ADAMS<sup>1</sup> Accession No.</b>	<b>NRC Acceptance Letter ADAMS Accession No.</b>
Request for Exemption from Certain Termination of License Requirements of 10 CFR 50.82, dated September 28, 2023.	<a href="#">ML23271A140</a>	<a href="#">ML23291A440</a>
Application for Order Consenting to Transfer of Control of License and Conforming License Amendments, dated December 6, 2023.	<a href="#">ML23340A161</a>	<a href="#">ML24012A242</a>
Request to Revise Operating License and Technical Specifications to Support Resumption of Power Operations, dated December 14, 2023.	<a href="#">ML23348A148</a>	<a href="#">ML24022A117</a>
Request to Revise the Administrative Technical Specifications to Support Resumption of Power Operations, dated February 9, 2024.	<a href="#">ML24040A089</a>	<a href="#">ML24060A221</a>
Request to Reinstate the Palisades Emergency Plan to Support Resumption of Power Operations, dated May 1, 2024.	<a href="#">ML24122C666</a>	<a href="#">ML24141A119</a>
Request to Revise the Main Steam Line Break Methodology for Palisades Nuclear Plant to Support Resumption of Power Operations, dated May 24, 2024.	<a href="#">ML24145A145</a>	<a href="#">ML24169A434</a>

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<sup>1</sup> Publicly available documents can be found online in the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System's (ADAMS) Public Documents collection at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To begin the search, select "Begin Web-based ADAMS Search." For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737, or by email to [PDR.Resource@nrc.gov](mailto:PDR.Resource@nrc.gov).

Figure 1 - A map of the "Palisades Site Layout" (see dashed line for the site boundary) from the 2006 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (see Figure 2-3 in [ML062710300](#))

