



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

July 1, 2024

Sara Thompson, Chief
Michigan Department of Natural
Resources
Wildlife Division
PO Box 30446
Lansing, MI 48909

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 Sara Thompson,

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 which lists the submittals received and the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System's (ADAMS) accession numbers for each submittal and the associated NRC acceptance letters. This information can also be found on the NRC's 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>.¹ 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;
- 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 development of the EA, the NRC requests a point of contact for coordination on state species of concern. Peyton Doub, NRC's ecologist assigned to the project, will be the point of contact for coordination and can be reached via email at Peyton.Doub@nrc.gov.

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.

¹ 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 11th public scoping meeting entry. Additional information about the meeting (e.g., agenda) can be found by clicking the links in the scoping meeting entry.

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 or Mary Richmond at 301-415-7218 or via email at Mary.Richmond@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,



Signed by Barnhurst, Daniel
on 07/01/24

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

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DATED: July 1, 2024

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ADAMS Accession No: ML24163A239

***via email**

OFFICE	PM:REFS/EPM3	PM:REFS/EPM3	LA:REFS/EPM2	PM:REFS/EPM3	REFS/ETR1
NAME	MSutherland	MRichmond	AWalker-Smith	LWillingham	PDoub
DATE	6/18/2024	6/25/2024	6/25/2024	6/25/2024	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	7/1/2024	

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

Holtec Decommissioning International, LLC Submittal	ADAMS¹ Accession No.	NRC Acceptance Letter ADAMS Accession No.
Request for Exemption from Certain Termination of License Requirements of 10 CFR 50.82, dated September 28, 2023.	ML23271A140	ML23291A440
Application for Order Consenting to Transfer of Control of License and Conforming License Amendments, dated December 6, 2023.	ML23340A161	ML24012A242
Request to Revise Operating License and Technical Specifications to Support Resumption of Power Operations, dated December 14, 2023.	ML23348A148	ML24022A117
Request to Revise the Administrative Technical Specifications to Support Resumption of Power Operations, dated February 9, 2024.	ML24040A089	ML24060A221
Request to Reinstate the Palisades Emergency Plan to Support Resumption of Power Operations, dated May 1, 2024.	ML24122C666	ML24141A119
Request to Revise the Main Steam Line Break Methodology for Palisades Nuclear Plant to Support Resumption of Power Operations, dated May 24, 2024.	ML24145A145	ML24169A434

¹ 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.

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](#))

