

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Notice of Intent to Conduct Scoping Process and Prepare an Environmental Assessment Holtec Decommissioning International, LLC and Holtec Palisades, LLC; Palisades Nuclear Plant, Unit 1

Comment On: NRC-2024-0076-0001

Holtec Decommissioning International, LLC, and Holtec Palisades, LLC; Palisades Nuclear Plant; Notice of Intent To Conduct Scoping Process and Prepare an Environmental Assessment

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Comment on FR Doc # 2024-14112

Submitter Information

Name: Lucy Park

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General Comment

Dear Ms. Schumann and Others,

My grandparents bought a cottage in Palisades Park back in 1978 so that our family could gather together and create memories. Our family is 192 strong. I tell you this because it matters. There are 192 people behind this email asking you to NOT let Holtec reopen the Palisade's Nuclear Power Plant.

My grandmother is 94 years old and is so excited to go up to Palisades this coming August. Our family has spent the last 46 summers, 23 of which I have been lucky enough to be part of, gathering together from several different states and the most popular weeks are the weeks when "everyone" is there. We could choose weeks where there are less people but we CHOOSE to be together to create lasting memories.

Palisades is a very special place to us. I live in Indiana and it is my favorite place in the world. I drive over 3 hours just to spend a day and a half there anytime I get the chance. I choose to go to Michigan, to Palisades, to create memories and continue the family bonds that my grandmother and grandfather started years ago.

Please understand that we've lived with the power plant for many summers, as it was active during several of our summers there. However, being an active, highly regulated power plant that undergoes rigorous tests and standards is very different than what Holtec is trying to do now. Holtec's requested restart license present environmental risks and unknowns greater than an operating plant that seeks an extension of an existing license. For years, PNP's operator ran the plant knowing it was on a schedule to shut down permanently. PNP's operator deferred maintenance and investment based on this timeline. Simply stated, it operated the plant as a short-timer, not as if it would need to be on line through 2031, the expiration date of its then existing license. The NRC granted waivers for safety upgrades that otherwise

would have been required but for the imminent shut down. An additional risk here is the requested issuance of a new license to an entity that has never operated a nuclear power plant. If the EPA mandates a rigorous EIS when determining whether an operating plant with an experienced licensee and ongoing investment and NRC oversight should be allowed to continue operating beyond its license term, shouldn't the EPA – and the NRC and DOE – require at least an EIS when a plant that has been shut down and not subject to the same level of review as an operating plant seeks to restart? Holtec's request presents to the NRC and DOE an important and novel environmental impact question: can this plant, with its history of financial distress, aging infrastructure, deferred maintenance, and degradation from being out of operation, be restarted and operated safely without causing unacceptable risk to the immediate community, environment and the cherished resources of the Great Lakes? Answering this question requires the highest level of environmental review – an EIS that is directed to the unique circumstances of this plant and the unprecedented request before the NRC to restart a permanently shut down nuclear facility.

I ask you to please thoughtfully consider and I thank you, we thank you, for doing so.

Sincerely,

Lucy Park and the 191 members of the O'Brien Family