



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

November 4, 2024

Robert Blanchard, Tribal Chairman  
Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe  
of Chippewa Indians (Wisconsin)  
P.O. Box 39  
Odanah, WI 54861-0039

SUBJECT: AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS NOTIFICATION AND CONTINUING  
SECTION 106 CONSULTATION 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 Tribal Chairman Robert Blanchard:

As previously noted by letter dated July 1, 2024 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System [ML24183A127](#)), 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 that seek NRC approvals to reauthorize power operations at the Palisades Nuclear Plant (Palisades). These requests include an exemption request, a license transfer request, and license amendment requests. Also discussed in our previous letter, the NRC is using the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA) process to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA) in accordance with Title 36 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," Section 800.8(c).

Concurrently, the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Loan Programs Office's (LPO's) proposed action, pursuant to its authority under Title 17 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, as amended, is considering providing Federal financial assistance (a loan guarantee) to support the reauthorization of power operations at Palisades. Accordingly, the DOE LPO will serve as a cooperating agency on the environmental review while the NRC will be the lead Federal agency for the environmental review under NEPA and Section 106 consultation under the NHPA.

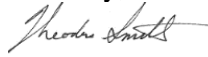
The purpose of this letter is to notify you about the area of potential effects (APE) determination for NRC's environmental review and NHPA Section 106 consultation. Specifically, the NRC is defining the direct and indirect APE for this undertaking as the entire 432-acre Palisades site (Enclosed). The APE shown in the enclosed map is the same APE evaluated in the 2006 NUREG-1437, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants, Supplement 27, Regarding Palisades Nuclear Plant."

The NRC expects to issue the draft environmental assessment (EA) for the consulting parties and public review and comment in January 2025. A copy of the draft EA will be made available for your review and comment. The EA will include identification of historic and cultural resources and historic properties, an analysis of potential effects of the proposed actions, including

potential effects on historic and cultural resources and historic properties as well as the NRC staff's preliminary determinations.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the APE, please contact Jennifer Davis, Staff Archaeologist, by phone at 301-415-3835 or via email at [Jennifer.Davis@nrc.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Davis@nrc.gov); or the Environmental Project Manager, Laura Willingham, by phone at 301-415-0857 or via email at [Laura.Willingham@nrc.gov](mailto:Laura.Willingham@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,



Signed by Smith, Theodore  
on 11/04/24

Theodore Smith, Acting Deputy Director  
Division of Rulemaking, Environmental,  
and Financial Support  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Docket No. 50-255

Enclosure:

Figure 1 – A Map of the 432-acre  
Palisades Area of Potential Effects

cc: GovDelivery  
Lawrence Plucinski, THPO  
[thpo@badriver-nsn.gov](mailto:thpo@badriver-nsn.gov)

SUBJECT: AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS NOTIFICATION AND CONTINUING SECTION 106 CONSULTATION 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: November 4, 2024

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**ADAMS Accession Nos:**

**ML24292A044 (Package); ML24292A049 (Letter)**

**\*concurrence via email**

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### Figure 1 – A Map of the 432-acre Palisades Area of Potential Effects

Figure modified from SEARCH, Inc.'s 2024 *Technical Report: Phase 1 Archaeological Survey of the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant, Van Buren County, Michigan*. Prepared for Enercon, prepared by SEARCH. SEARCH project number: 240030. Report on file at the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office.

