



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

January 31, 2025

Bruce Hamlin, Chairman  
Burt Lake Band  
P.O. Box 206  
3062 Indian Road  
Brutus, MI 49716

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR 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 Chairman Bruce Hamlin:

In a letter dated July 1, 2024, (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. [ML24172A003](#)), the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) notified your office that it is conducting an environmental review for a series of licensing and regulatory requests submitted by Holtec Decommissioning International, LLC (HDI) that, if approved, would collectively support reauthorizing power operations at the Palisades Nuclear Plant (Palisades). These requests are the proposed actions before the NRC and include an exemption request, a license transfer request, and license amendment requests. The NRC is the lead Federal agency for the environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), and for Section 106 consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA), with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Loan Programs Office (LPO) serving as a cooperating agency on the environmental review and Section 106 consultation. DOE LPO's proposed action, pursuant to its authority under Title 17 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, as amended, is consideration of providing Federal financial assistance (a loan guarantee) to support the resumption of power operations at Palisades.

As part of this review, the NRC and DOE LPO staff have completed a draft environmental assessment (EA) and draft finding of no significant impact (FONSI), "*Draft Environmental Assessment and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact for the Palisades Nuclear Plant Reauthorization of Power Operations Project*" (ADAMS Accession No. [ML24353A157](#)). The associated *Federal Register* notice (FRN) was published on January 31, 2025, and is available at <https://www.federalregister.gov>. The draft EA and draft FONSI are also available on the NRC's website at <https://www.nrc.gov/info-finder/reactors/pali.html#pali-1>.

Section 3.8 of the draft EA contains a description of historic and cultural resources and historic properties identified in the direct and indirect area of potential effects (APE), discusses impacts to these resources from activities associated with the preparation for and resumption of power operations, and provides the NRC and DOE LPO's preliminary determination. The NRC and DOE LPO's preliminary determination under Section 106 of the NHPA, is that the undertaking will have no historic properties affected as no historic properties have been identified in the APE and activities associated with the resumption of power operations are limited to previously

disturbed areas. Additionally, no historic and cultural resources have been identified within the APE. Therefore, there will be no significant impacts under NEPA to historic and cultural resources at Palisades. This preliminary determination is based on: (1) the analysis and findings of NRC and DOE LPO's independent environmental review documented in the draft EA; (2) ongoing consultation with Federal, State, Tribal, and local agencies; (3) environmental documentation submitted by HDI and (4) the consideration of public scoping comments.

In accordance with the NRC's January 9, 2017, Tribal Policy Statement ([82 FR 2402](#)), the NRC wishes to ensure that State-recognized Tribes are afforded the opportunity to participate in the NRC's licensing and regulatory processes. The NRC invites your office to submit any comments, or concerns on the draft EA and draft FONSI during the 30-day comment period, which ends on March 3, 2025. Comments can be submitted by the following methods:


1. Emailing [PalisadesRestartEnvironmental@nrc.gov](mailto:PalisadesRestartEnvironmental@nrc.gov);
2. Going to <https://regulations.gov> and searching for Docket ID NRC-2024-0076; or
3. Mailing comments to the Office of Administration, Mail Stop: TWFN-7-A60M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, ATTN: Program Management, Announcements and Editing Staff.

Alternatively, comments can be sent directly to Jennifer Davis or Mary Richmond (contact information below).

After consideration of public comments received, as well as information received through consultation, the NRC and DOE LPO will prepare a final EA and final FONSI unless the staff determines that the proposed actions would have a significant impact on the human environment, in which case the staff would proceed to prepare an environmental impact statement. If it is determined that a final EA and final FONSI should be issued, it is expected that they would be published in June 2025.

If you have any questions concerning the NRC's environmental review, please contact Staff Archaeologist, Jennifer Davis, by phone at 301-415-3835 or via email at [Jennifer.Davis@nrc.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Davis@nrc.gov); or Environmental Project Manager, Mary Richmond, by phone at 301-415-7218 or via email at [Mary.Richmond@nrc.gov](mailto:Mary.Richmond@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,



Signed by Regan, Christopher  
on 01/31/25

Christopher M. Regan, Director  
Division of Rulemaking, Environmental,  
and Financial Support  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Docket No. 50-0255

cc: GovDelivery

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DATED: January 31, 2025

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**ADAMS Package Accession No.: ML25007A008; Letter: ML25030A382** \*via email

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