



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION III
2056 WESTINGS AVENUE, SUITE 400
NAPERVILLE, IL 60563-2657

February 2, 2026

Michael Mlynarek
Site Vice President,
Palisades Energy, LLC
Palisades Nuclear Plant
27780 Blue Star Memorial Hwy
Covert, MI 49043-9530

SUBJECT: PALISADES NUCLEAR PLANT – RESTART INSPECTION REPORT
05000255/2025006

Dear Michael Mlynarek:

On December 31, 2025, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed an inspection at the Palisades Nuclear Plant. The enclosed inspection report documents the inspection results, which the inspectors discussed on January 20, 2026, with yourself and other members of your staff.

No findings or violations of more than minor significance were identified during this inspection.

On June 13, 2022, Palisades ceased permanent power operations and subsequently removed all fuel from the reactor, as detailed in the letter from Entergy to the NRC, “Certifications of Permanent Cessation of Power Operations and Permanent Removal of Fuel from the Reactor Vessel,” (ADAMS Accession No. [ML22164A067](#)). On September 28, 2023, Holtec Decommissioning International, LLC (Holtec) submitted a letter to the NRC requesting exemptions from certain portions of the requirements of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 50.82(a)(2) to pursue the potential reauthorization of power operations at Palisades (ADAMS Accession No. [ML23271A140](#)).

On July 24, 2025, the NRC approved an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.82(a)(2), as detailed in the letter, “Palisades Nuclear Plant – Exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.82(a)(2) Concerning the Prohibition to Operate and Emplace Fuel in the Reactor Vessel,” (ADAMS Accession No. [ML25163A182](#)) and a set of licensing actions supporting reauthorization of Palisades Nuclear Plant. On August 25, 2025, Palisades notified the NRC that they rescinded their 10 CFR 50.82(a)(1) certification, which removed the prohibition on operation and emplacement of fuel in the reactor (ADAMS Accession No. [ML25237A317](#)). Palisades also implemented the set of licensing actions to support reimplementation of their operational licensing basis.

On August 25, 2025, the NRC transitioned oversight of Palisades to the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP).

This letter, its enclosure, and your response (if any) will be made available for public inspection and copying at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> and at the NRC Public Document Room in accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* 2.390, "Public Inspections, Exemptions, Requests for Withholding."

Sincerely,



Signed by Nguyen, April
on 02/02/26

April M. Nguyen, Lead
Palisades Restart Team
Division of Operating Reactor Safety

Docket No. 05000255
License No. DPR-20

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/ encl: Distribution via GovDelivery

Letter to Michael Mlynarek from April M. Nguyen dated February 2, 2026.

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05000255/2025006

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**U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
Inspection Report**

Docket Number: 05000255

License Number: DPR-20

Report Number: 05000255/2025006

Enterprise Identifier: I-2025-006-0045

Licensee: Palisades Energy, LLC

Facility: Palisades Nuclear Plant

Location: Covert, MI

Inspection Dates: November 01, 2025, to December 31, 2025

Inspectors: J. Cassidy, Senior Health Physicist
A. Dahbur, Senior Reactor Inspector
Z. Helgert, Resident Inspector
J. Mancuso, Senior Resident Inspector
M. McConnell, Senior Electrical Engineer
V. Myers, Senior Health Physicist
A. Nguyen, Team Leader
T. Okamoto, Resident Inspector
A. Shaikh, Senior Reactor Inspector
C. St. Peters, Senior Project Engineer
J. Winslow, Senior Project Engineer

Approved By: April M. Nguyen, Lead
Palisades Restart Team
Division of Operating Reactor Safety

Enclosure

SUMMARY

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) performed inspection activities of the licensee's performance associated with the return to an operational status. As available, the NRC monitored the licensee's performance by conducting an integrated inspection at Palisades Nuclear Plant, in accordance with the Reactor Oversight Process. The Reactor Oversight Process is the NRC's program for overseeing the safe operation of commercial nuclear power reactors. Refer to <https://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/oversight.html> for more information.

List of Findings and Violations

No findings or violations of more than minor significance were identified.

Additional Tracking Items

None.

PLANT STATUS

On August 25, 2025, Palisades notified the NRC that they rescinded their 10 CFR 50.82(a)(1) certification, which removed the prohibition on operation and emplacement of fuel in the reactor. Palisades also implemented the set of licensing actions to support reimplementation of their operational licensing basis. On August 25, 2025, the NRC transitioned oversight of Palisades to the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP).

The NRC is conducting inspections to evaluate and assess the licensee's activities for restoration to an operating status. The resident inspectors, as well as supplemental inspectors, continue to provide daily oversight of the restart activities occurring at the site.

The unit ended the inspection period in a defueled status.

INSPECTION SCOPES

Inspections were conducted using the appropriate portions of the referenced inspection procedures (IPs) in effect at the beginning of the inspection unless otherwise noted. Currently approved IPs with their attached revision histories are located on the public website at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/insp-manual/inspection-procedure/index>. As available, samples were declared complete when the IP requirements most appropriate to the inspection activity were met consistent with Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 2515, "Light-Water Reactor Inspection Program - Operations Phase." The inspectors reviewed selected procedures and records, observed activities, and interviewed personnel to assess licensee performance and compliance with Commission rules and regulations, license conditions, site procedures, and standards.

REACTOR SAFETY

71111.05 - Fire Protection

Fire Area Walkdown and Inspection Sample (IP Section 03.01) (1 Sample)

The inspectors evaluated the implementation of the fire protection program by conducting a walkdown and performing a review to verify program compliance, equipment functionality, material condition, and operational readiness of the following fire areas:

- (1) Pre-Fire Plan 2 / Room 224: cable spreading room, elevation 607'-6" on December 3, 2025

71111.07A - Heat Exchanger/Sink Performance

Annual Review (IP Section 03.01) (1 Partial)

The inspectors evaluated readiness and performance of:

- (1) (Partial)
E-60B, shutdown cooling heat exchanger, on December 23, 2025

71111.08P - Inservice Inspection Activities (PWR)

Vessel Upper Head Penetration Inspection Activities (IP Section 03.02) (1 Sample)

- (1) Reactor Vessel Closure Head (RVCH) bare metal visual examination

Steam Generator Tube Inspection Activities (IP Section 03.04) (1 Sample)

- (1) Steam generators 'A' and 'B' chemical cleaning

71111.15 - Operability Determinations and Functionality Assessments

Operability Determination or Functionality Assessment (IP Section 03.01) (3 Samples)

The inspectors evaluated the licensee's justifications and actions associated with the following operability determinations and functionality assessments:

- (1) Engineering Changes (ECs) 93737, 93739, and 93766, Operability Acceptance Documents to meet Technical Specifications (TS) Limiting Condition for Operation (LCO) 3.8.5, Right Train DC Sources - Shutdown, TS LCO 3.8.8, Right Train Inverters - Shutdown, and TS LCO 3.8.10, Right Train Distribution Systems - Shutdown during movement of irradiated fuel
- (2) EC 93743, Operability Acceptance Review to meet TS LCO 3.7.10, Control Room Ventilation Filtration for right and left train control room HVAC and TS LCO 3.7.11 Control Room Ventilation Cooling for right train control room HVAC during movement of irradiated fuel
- (3) EC 93739, Operability Acceptance Review to meet TS LCO 3.8.2 AC Sources - Shutdown for Emergency Diesel Generator 1-2 and TS LCO 3.8.3 Diesel Fuel, Lube Oil and Starting Air for Emergency Diesel Generator 1-2 during movement of irradiated fuel

71111.18 - Plant Modifications

Temporary Modifications and/or Permanent Modifications (IP Section 03.01 and/or 03.02) (3 Samples)

The inspectors evaluated the following temporary or permanent modifications:

- (1) EC 93764, Installation of portable air compressors to support compressor C-2A/B/C replacement
- (2) EC 93508, Permanent Primary Coolant System Cold Leg Safety Injection Nozzle Thermal Sleeve Removal
- (3) EC 93369, Temporary removal of component cooling water valves CV-0977B and CV-0944 to support alternate spent fuel pool cooling permanent modification

71111.24 - Testing and Maintenance of Equipment Important to Risk

The inspectors evaluated the following testing and maintenance activities to verify system operability and/or functionality:

Post-Maintenance Testing (PMT) (IP Section 03.01) (1 Sample)

- (1) Work Order (WO) 598521-01, Post-maintenance testing of diesel fire pump P-9B following alternator replacement on November 5, 2025

Surveillance Testing (IP Section 03.01) (1 Sample)

- (1) RI-59C, LTOP pressure transmitter calibrations, on December 4, 2025

RADIATION SAFETY

71124.01 - Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls

Instructions to Workers (IP Section 03.02) (1 Sample)

- (1) The inspectors evaluated how the licensee instructed workers on radiological hazards and the radiation protection requirements for flushing and opening of the shutdown cooling heat exchanger.

Radiological Hazards Control and Work Coverage (IP Section 03.04) (1 Sample)

The inspectors evaluated the licensee's control of radiological hazards for the following radiological work:

- (1) Flushing and opening of the shutdown cooling heat exchanger

71124.03 - In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation

Temporary Ventilation Systems (IP Section 03.02) (1 Sample)

The inspectors evaluated the configuration of the following temporary ventilation systems:

- (1) HEPA ventilation established for the shutdown cooling heat exchanger eddy current testing

Use of Respiratory Protection Devices (IP Section 03.03) (1 Partial)

- (1) (Partial)
The inspectors observed issuance and use of powered air purifying respirators for shutdown cooling heat exchanger work

71124.04 - Occupational Dose Assessment

Special Dosimetric Situations (IP Section 03.04) (1 Sample)

The inspectors evaluated the following special dosimetric situations:

- (1) Lapel air sampler use for shutdown cooling heat exchanger work

OTHER BASELINE ACTIVITIES

71152 – Problem Identification and Resolution

System Return to Service

During the inspection period, the inspectors continued reviews of Phases I and II of the licensee's system return to service (SRTS) plans and associated topics. The SRTS plans document licensee activities to verify that the configuration and condition of systems, structures, and components (SSCs) are consistent with the design and licensing bases to support potential restart. The inspectors reviewed Phases I and II of the SRTS plans, which include areas such as licensing and design-basis functions, system material conditions, reviewing open and deferred work prior to shutdown, and program applicability. The inspectors conducted these reviews using IP 71152, "Problem Identification and Resolution," and IP 71111.21M, "Comprehensive Engineering Team Inspection (CETI)," as applicable.

The inspectors continued reviews of the SRTS plans for the following topics:

- Environmental qualification of components
- Reactor vessel and reactor vessel internals

INSPECTION RESULTS

No findings were identified.

EXIT MEETINGS AND DEBRIEFS

The inspectors verified no proprietary information was retained or documented in this report.

- On January 20, 2026, the inspectors presented the inspection results to M. Mlynarek, Site Vice President, and other members of the licensee staff.

DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

Inspection Procedure	Type	Designation	Description or Title	Revision or Date
71111.05	Fire Plans	PFP	Pre Fire Plans Manual	6
71111.07A	Corrective Action Documents	25015224	E-60B Shutdown Heat Exchanger Channel Cover Weight	12/15/2025
71111.08P	Corrective Action Documents	2025-3693	Palisades RVCH: All CRDM Ext. Nozzles Having Issues Being Installed	12/06/2025
	NDE Reports	1R28-ISI-VT-123	Bare Metal Visual Examination of RVCH Surface	12/15/2025
	Procedures	03-9398550	Palisades Steam Generator Cleaning Sequence Control Procedure	000
	Work Orders	00589951-25	E-50A: Perform Steam Generator Secondary Chemical Cleaning	10/13/2025
		00589951-35	E-50B: Perform Steam Generator Secondary Chemical Cleaning	11/18/2025
71111.15	Corrective Action Documents	PMCR 25014377	Frequency Change for 72-18 and 72-28	11/13/2025
	Operability Evaluations	EC 93739	System Operability Acceptance TS LCO 3.8.2, AC Sources - Shutdown (Right Train)	0
		EC 93739	System Operability Acceptance for TS LCO 3.8.5, DC Sources - Shutdown (Right Train)	0
		EC 93743	System Operability Acceptance, CRV - A/B Filtration and B Cooling Trains	0
		EC 93766	System Operability Acceptance for TS LCO 3.8.8, Inverters - Shutdown (Right Train)	0
		System Operability Acceptance	Emergency Diesel Generator K-6B (EDG 1-2) LCO 3.8.2 & Fuel Oil System (FOS) LCO 3.8.3	0
	Procedures	Admin 4.11	Safety Function Determination Program	7
71111.18	Corrective Action Documents	25014179	Questions Raised Prior to CCW System Tagging	11/08/2025
		25014189	Component Cooling Water System Alignment	11/09/2025
	Engineering Changes	EC 93508	PCS Cold Leg Safety Injection Nozzle Thermal Sleeve Removal	0
		EC 93764	Temporary Installation of Portable Air Compressors to Support Compressor C-2A/B/C	0

Inspection Procedure	Type	Designation	Description or Title	Revision or Date
			Replacement	
	Procedures	03-9393324	Palisades Cold Leg Safety Injection Nozzle Thermal Sleeve Removal	0
71111.24	Corrective Action Documents	25014044	P-9B Diesel Driven Fire Pump Outside of Normal Speed Range	11/04/2025
		25014926	Low Temperature Over Pressure Transmitter PT-0104B Out of As Found Tolerance	12/04/2025
	Procedures	MO-7B	Fire Water Pumps P-9A, P-9B, and P-41	44
		RI-59C	LTOP Pressure Transmitter Calibrations	8
	Work Orders	52957096-01	RI-59C LTOP Pressure Transmitter Calibrations	12/04/2025
598521-01		Troubleshoot CR#25010331 P-9B Diesel Fire Pump Tripped	11/05/2025	
71124.01	ALARA Plans	2025-0574	ALARA Plan for RWP 20250574	
	Radiation Surveys	2025-2283	Flush of Shutdown Cooling Heat Exchanger	12/04/2025
		2025-2352	Demobilization of Shutdown Cooling Heat Exchanger Drain Pipe	12/12/2025
		2025-2405	West Safeguards	12/22/2025
Radiation Work Permits (RWPs)	20250574	Eddy Current Inspections on E-60B Shutdown Cooling Heat Exchanger	01	
71152	Engineering Evaluations	51-9392765-000	Corrosion Evaluation for Palisades Reactor Vessel Cladding Indications	09/08/2025