



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

August 20, 2026

Ryan Schumaker
State Historic Preservation Officer
Michigan State Historic Preservation
Office
300 North Washington Square
Lansing, MI 48913

SUBJECT: CONCLUSION OF SECTION 106 CONSULTATION AND DETERMINATION OF
NO HISTORIC PROPERTIES AFFECTED REGARDING THE PALISADES
SMR, LLC EXEMPTION REQUEST, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN (EPID
NUMBER: L-2026-LLE-0011; DOCKET NUMBERS: 50-616 AND 50-617)

Dear Ryan Schumaker:

This letter informs your office that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has concluded its Section 106 consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA), regarding Palisades SMR, LLC's (Palisades SMR) exemption request from the requirements in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 50.10(c). The exemption request (i.e. undertaking) was submitted by SMR, LLC on behalf of Palisades SMR, a Holtec International company, in support of the planned construction of two Holtec SMR-300 reactors, designated Pioneer Units 1 and 2, at the Palisades Energy Center (PEC) site in Covert Township, Van Buren County, Michigan. The exemption, if approved, would allow for the construction and retention of support of excavation (SOE) walls during the excavation for the dual-unit SMR-300 plant prior to NRC issuance of a limited work authorization (LWA), if approved. The SOE walls would remain in place as permanent components of the completed facility. The exemption request is available online through the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. [ML25365A989](#) (Enclosure IV, Attachment A, Exemption 1).

Palisades SMR included the exemption request with Part 1 of the phased construction permit (CP) application for Pioneer Units 1 and 2. Palisades SMR has requested that the NRC consider and approve the exemption independently of, and prior to, completion of the NRC's review of the remainder of Part 1 of the phased CP application, which includes the LWA application and two other exemption requests. Palisades SMR plans to submit Part 2 of the phased CP application no later than 18 months after this Part 1 submittal. Part 1 of the phased CP application is available in ADAMS at [ML25365A983](#). The NRC initiated Section 106 consultation for that undertaking with your office on June 25, 2026 ([ML26161A005](#)).

By letter dated July 15, 2026, the NRC notified the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation ([ML26194A200](#)) and initiated Section 106 consultation with the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) ([ML26194A199](#)) and 31 Federally recognized Tribes ([ML26194A312](#)) regarding the exemption request (i.e., undertaking) and requested your

comment on the staff's preliminary determination. On August 13, 2026, your office concurred with the NRC's determination ([ML26225A364](#)). No comments were received from consulting Tribes.

The NRC staff is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed action (i.e. requested Exemption 1) and plans to issue it in August 2026. The Area of Potential Effects for the proposed action/undertaking is approximately 9 acres within the 432-acre PEC site. The NRC's analysis includes a 1 mile (1.6 kilometer) buffer to account for potential offsite impacts to historic properties, if present.

Based on the staff's review of Palisades SMR's environmental report portion of the application, the archaeological and architectural surveys conducted by their contractor, the absence of comments received from consulting Tribes, concurrence from Michigan SHPO, and the staff's independent assessment, the NRC staff has determined that the undertaking will result in No Historic Properties Affected, as defined in 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1). The NRC staff's final determination will be included in the EA for the proposed action. This determination is distinct from the NRC's NHPA consultation initiated June 25, 2026, for the phased CP undertaking.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the NRC's Section 106 consultation, please contact Jennifer Davis, Archaeologist, by phone at 301-415-3835 or via email at Jennifer.Davis@nrc.gov, or Robert Hoffman, Senior Environmental Project Manager, by phone at 301-415-1107 or via email at Robert.Hoffman@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,



Signed by Daniel Barnhurst Signing on behalf of

Sean Peters on 08/20/26

Sean E. Peters, Acting Chief
Advanced Reactor Environmental Review Branch
Division of Advanced Reactor Programs
Office of Advanced Reactors

Docket Nos.: 50-616, 50-617

cc: Granicus Communications
(formerly GovDelivery)

Scott Slagor, Cultural Resource
Protection Manager
Slagors2@michigan.gov

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ADAMS Package No.: ML26230A177; Letter: ML26230A215

e-Concurrence case: 20260818-01930