



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

September 09, 2026

Steven Mitchell
Site Licensing Manager
Palisades SMR, LLC. A Holtec
International Company
Krishna P. Singh Technology Campus
1 Holtec Blvd
Camden, NJ 08104

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE EXEMPTION
REQUEST TO INSTALL SUPPORT OF EXCAVATION WALLS PRIOR TO
ISSUANCE OF A LIMITED WORK AUTHORIZATION

Dear Steven Mitchell:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing an environmental assessment (EA) and finding of no significant impact (FONSI) for an exemption from specific requirements of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 50.10(c) associated with excavation support activities for the proposed dual-unit SMR-300 plant, Pioneer Units 1 and 2, at the Palisades Energy Center in Covert, Michigan. This action is in response to an exemption request from SMR, LLC, on behalf of Palisades SMR, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Holtec International (collectively, Holtec) that was included in Enclosure IV to Part 1 of the Phased Construction Permit application submitted to the NRC on December 31, 2025, (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession Number [ML25365A983](#)). Specifically, Palisades SMR is requesting an exemption, pursuant to NRC regulations, to allow for construction of support of excavation walls during SMR-300 excavation and prior to issuance of a limited work authorization, if approved. Based on the analyses presented in the EA, the NRC staff determined that there would be no significant environmental impacts associated with granting the requested exemption. Accordingly, the NRC staff determined that the preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required for granting the requested exemption, and that a FONSI is warranted.

The EA and FONSI are publicly available in ADAMS at [ML26230A249](#). A *Federal Register* notice concerning the EA and FONSI was published on August 25, 2026 ([91 FR 54890](#)).

S. Mitchell

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If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (301) 415-1107 or via email at Robert.Hoffman@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Hoffman", is positioned above the typed name and title.

Signed by Robert Hoffman on 09/09/26

Robert Hoffman, Senior Environmental
Project Manager
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)

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ADAMS Accession No.: ML26245A462 (letter)

e-Concurrence: 20260903-02250