

From: [Arnie Gundersen](#)
To: [Marlayna Doell](#)
Subject: [External_Sender] Palisades Fuel Damage LAR Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 10:35:09 PM
Attachments: IMG_5936.PNG

Dear Protectors of the Public's Health and Safety at the NRC,

WHY ARE YOU IN SUCH A RUSH TO HELP HOLTEC RESURRECT PALISADES????

As a formerly licensed AEC Reactor Operator, I view safely loading any nuclear reactor core as a sacred duty the public entrusted me with. The repeated "one-over-M" calculations to avoid inadvertent criticality that are required as fuel is loaded have been deeply impressed into my soul.

Fuel Loading should not be trivialized as a marketing photo op, yet that is exactly what Holtec did at Palisades by filming the first eight fuel elements loaded into the Palisades core and bragging about it on their Facebook page on August 31, 2026.

: The official Palisades Energy Facebook Page posted the specific image capturing the milestone of the first eight nuclear fuel bundles entering the reactor vessel. * Facebook • Holtec Palisades

Yet as soon as Holtec turned the cameras off, they managed to drop one of the next fuel bundles. According to Reddit, **Holtec's own employees have viewed photos of the dropped fuel bundle and believe it is a "BIG uh-oh" and "the worst fuel handling fuck up I've ever seen... its ugly"**. (See below)

That Holtec widely disseminated video of its first eight successful bundle insertions trivializes the safety significance and shows a the lack of a safety conscious work environment at Palisades. Trivializing fuel load show the lack of appreciation for its safety significance and is likely the root cause of the bundle drop. Neither the NRC nor Holtec acknowledged that failure until three weeks later when the press had already identified it from Holtec's employee concerns posted on Reddit. And the photos of the bundle are still not provided to the public.

What is your rush to restart Palisades by a rookie owner, Holtec??? AT LEAST THREE ISSUES NEED TO BE ADDRESSED:

1. There is absolutely nothing on the record to explain the root cause of why and

how the fuel bundle was dropped and how such an event will be avoided in the future.

2. Nor is there anything on the record to analyze what damage might have been caused when the fuel bundle fell.

3. A safety conscious workplace needs to be created, not a photo op culture.

Running a nuclear power plant should not be a photo op! I understand that both the NRC staff and Holtec staff are under pressure for their respective managements to quickly resurrect Palisades, but maintaining an adequate safety culture is not open for negotiation.

Arnie Gundersen

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5:25



= ChatGPT

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 Reddit • r/NuclearPower >

Sounds like the reload isn't going so well, I saw a picture this morning of a BIG uh-oh.

 Reddit • r/NuclearPower >

They dropped a fuel assembly inside of the vessel. As of about 24 hours ago it was lying fully horizontal on the core plate. Probably the worst fuel handling fuck up I've ever seen. There's a picture making the rounds, it's ugly.

 Reddit • r/nuclear >

I can't share, obviously. But it's making the rounds. They are saying it was bowed.

But I found an important problem with the image hunt

The Reddit page exposes an **image link**, but it resolves to Reddit's generic

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exposed through the accessible page



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