STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

PHILLIP D. ROOS
DIRECTOR

July 13, 2026

VIA E-MAIL

Robert Hoffman, Sr. Environmental Project Manager
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Two White Flint North
Mail Stop: T4-B72
11545 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852-2738

Dear Robert Hoffman:

Subject: Receipt of Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification Request and Coastal Zone Management Act Consistency Certification: Construction and Operation of Two SMR-300 Units at the Palisades Energy Center, Covert Township, Van Buren County, Michigan (NRC Project No. 99902049; Docket Nos. 050-616 and 050-617)

The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), Water Resources Division (WRD), has received a request for Water Quality Certification (WQC) pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act from Holtec International for the construction and operation of two Small Modular Reactor (SMR)-300 units at the Palisades Energy Center on the Lake Michigan coast in Covert Township, Van Buren County. The WQC request was received on April 7, 2026. This project requires a permit and license from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and will result in a discharge to waters of the U.S.

Additionally, this project has reasonably foreseeable effects on resources and uses of Michigan's approved coastal management program area and is subject to Federal Consistency requirements under Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act, PL 92-583, as amended, and 15 CFR Part 930, Subpart D. EGLE WRD received the Consistency Certification with necessary data and information for this project from Holtec International pursuant to 15 CFR 930.57 on June 5, 2026. This date marks the beginning of the six-month Consistency Certification review period pursuant to 15 CFR 930.60(a).

Please note that Michigan's water quality requirements that are applied to reviews of WQC requests are a subset of the approved enforceable policies of Michigan's Coastal Management Program that are applied to reviews of Consistency Certifications. Consequently, many projects that require both WQC and Consistency Certification concurrence, such as the proposed construction and operation of the SMR-300 units,

are approved, denied, or approved with conditions developed by EGLE WRD based on provisions of statutes and administrative rules that are both water quality requirements and approved enforceable policies.

Pursuant to 40 CFR 121.6(b), EGLE WRD requests that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission agree to a “reasonable period of time” for acting on the WQC request through December 5, 2026. Such timeframe would allow EGLE WRD to fully coordinate the WQC and Consistency Certification reviews of the lengthy and complex material and complete public notice requirements.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at 517-230-7849 or SmarM@Michigan.gov.

Sincerely,



Matt Smar, Great Lakes and Shorelands Unit Manager
Field Operations Support Section
Water Resources Division

cc: Laura Willingham, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Steven Mitchell, Holtec International
Andrea Munoz-Hernandez, EGLE
Tarek Buckmaster, EGLE