

November 19, 1999

Mr. Thomas J. Palmisano
Site Vice President and General Manager
Palisades Nuclear Generating Plant
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway
Covert, MI 49043-9530

SUBJECT: NRC RADIATION PROTECTION INSPECTION REPORT 50-255/99016(DRS)

Dear Mr. Palmisano:

On October 26, 1999, the NRC completed a routine inspection at the Palisades Nuclear Plant. The enclosed report summarizes the results of that inspection. Based on the results of this inspection, no violations were identified.

The inspection was an examination of activities conducted under your license as they relate to radiation safety and to compliance with the Commission's rules and regulations and with the conditions of your license. Specifically, the inspection focused on the implementation of the radiation protection program during the early stages of the 1999 refueling outage and included a review of radiological planning and dose management, implementation of the as-low-as-is-reasonably-achievable (ALARA) program, the control and oversight of radiological work, radiation worker performance and source term reduction initiatives. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, observations, independent measurements and interviews with station and contractor personnel.

Overall, the radiation protection program was implemented effectively during the first 10 days of the planned 37-day outage. ALARA initiatives, source term reduction efforts, effective radiological work control and aggressive dose management practices all contributed to maintaining outage dose within established dose goals. Radiation worker and radiation protection staff performance was also significantly improved over that of recent outages. Outage dose goals were challenged, however, by the lack of management oversight of the scaffolding program and delays in removing the reactor head.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the Commission's regulations, a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public document Room.

PDR ADocv.

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T. Palmisano

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We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this inspection.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By Wayne J. Slawinski for

Gary L. Shear, Chief
Plant Support Branch

Docket No. 50-255
License No. DPR-20

Enclosure: Inspection Report 50-255/99016(DRS)

cc w/encl: R. Fenech, Senior Vice President, Nuclear,
Fossil and Hydro Operations
N. Haskell, Director, Licensing
R. Whale, Michigan Public Service Commission
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Department of Attorney General (MI)
Emergency Management Division, MI Department
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