



A CMS Energy Company

Palisades Nuclear Plant
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Daniel J. Malone
Director, Engineering

March 29, 2001

U S Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555-0001

DOCKET 50-255 - LICENSE DPR-20 - PALISADES PLANT
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION CHANGE REQUEST
SPENT FUEL POOL BORON CONCENTRATION - ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

On March 2, 2001, Consumers Energy submitted a request for Technical Specifications changes to increase the limits on stored fuel enrichment, impose a spent fuel boron concentration requirement whenever fuel is stored in the spent fuel pool, and require that the spent fuel pool boron concentration be verified weekly. In response to our Project Manager's request, this letter provides our determination that, pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b), an environmental assessment of the proposed amendment is not required. The enclosure to this letter provides that determination.

A copy of this letter has been sent to the appropriate official of the State of Michigan.

SUMMARY OF COMMITMENTS

This letter establishes no new commitments and makes no revisions to existing commitments.

Daniel J. Malone
Director, Engineering

CC: Administrator, Region III, USNRC
Project Manager, NRR, USNRC
NRC Resident Inspector - Palisades
Lou Brandon, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

Enclosure

A001

CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION CHANGE REQUEST
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION FOR
SPENT FUEL POOL BORON CONCENTRATION

To the best of my knowledge, the content of this letter, which provides a determination regarding the need for an environmental assessment of previously proposed changes to the Palisades Plant Technical Specifications which implement Spent Fuel Pool boron concentration requirements, is truthful and complete.



Daniel J. Malone
Director, Engineering

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 27th day of March 2001



Janice M. Milan, Notary Public
Allegan County Michigan
(Acting in Van Buren County, Michigan)
My commission expires September 6, 2003

(Seal)

ENCLOSURE

**CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY
PALISADES PLANT
DOCKET 50-255**

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION FOR
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION CHANGE REQUEST -
SPENT FUEL POOL BORON CONCENTRATION**

2 Pages

**CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY
DOCKET 50-255
LICENSE DPR-20**

It is requested that the Consumers Energy Company letter of March 2, 2001, which proposed changes to increase the limits on stored fuel enrichment, impose a spent fuel boron concentration requirement whenever fuel is stored in the spent fuel pool, and require that the spent fuel pool boron concentration be verified weekly, be amended with the following statement:

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

A review has determined that the proposed amendment would change a requirement with respect to installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area, as defined in 10 CFR 20, and would change an inspection or surveillance requirement. However, it has also been determined that the proposed amendment does not involve (1) a significant hazards consideration, (2) a significant change in the types or significant increase in the amounts of any effluent that may be released offsite, or (3) a significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the proposed amendment meets the eligibility criterion for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b), an environmental assessment of the proposed amendment is not required.