

August 6, 2003

Mr. Douglas E. Cooper
Site Vice President
Palisades Nuclear Plant
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway
Covert, MI 49043

SUBJECT: PALISADES PLANT - CORRECTION TO FIRE PROTECTION EXEMPTION
REQUEST (TAC NO. MB5868)

Dear Mr. Cooper:

By letter dated August 12, 2002, the Nuclear Management Company, LLC (NMC), submitted a correction to a fire protection exemption request dated July 20, 1984, and June 19, 1985, for the Palisades Plant which was granted by the NRC staff in an exemption dated July 23, 1985. The error in the original exemption request was identified during a recent NMC review of fire protection program requirements. Figure 3B to Attachment 15 of the July 20, 1984, and June 19, 1985, submittals, provided information that included identification of the location of fire detectors in the containment 607' elevation area. Four fire detectors were originally, and incorrectly denoted in the area for the right channel instrument cable route. In the August 12, 2002, letter, NMC submitted a corrected Figure 3B which denotes three fire detectors. The previously identified fourth detector was actually an alarm bell used as a local alarm that is energized upon smoke detector actuation in the containment. NMC also stated that there are no cable concentrations between the alarm bell and the adjacent fire detector and that the remaining three smoke detectors are adequate to provide fire detection in the areas of cable concentration, as stated in the NRC exemption dated July 23, 1985.

Based on a review of the information provided in the August 12, 2002, letter, the original exemption requests, and the subsequently issued NRC exemption, no changes are required in the original NRC exemption. In the area of fire detection, the original exemption request approval credited "early warning fire detectors installed in areas of cable concentrations." As stated in your August 12, 2002, letter, this statement remains accurate. As such, the original NRC exemption is not impacted by this correction.

Sincerely,
/RA/

Johnny H. Eads, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-255

cc: See next page

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Johnny H. Eads, Project Manager, Section 1
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Division of Licensing Project Management
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*Previously concurred

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Palisades Plant

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March 2003