

April 24, 2013

Dr. Barbara J. Pellegrini
4022 Evergreen Lane
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Dear Dr. Pellegrini:

I am responding to a letter you sent addressed to the former U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Chairman, Dr. Gregory Jaczko, dated May 30, 2012, on the subject of Material Science Resources. I apologize for the delayed response.

Thank you for the points you have raised concerning the benefits that knowledge from the Field of Material Science can provide to the safe management of aging structures at nuclear power plants. I can reassure you that both the nuclear power industry and the NRC maintain strong material performance programs and expertise in the field of material science. Although I did not have the benefit of attending the May 25, 2012 meeting to which your letter refers, I understand that you have a particular interest in the Palisades Nuclear Plant. In the enclosure, I have provided specific responses regarding the NRC's regulatory and research programs concerning materials degradation issues and specifically focused on the reactor pressure vessel, which is a key component currently being discussed in the context of the Palisades Nuclear Plant.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Al Csontos of my staff at Aladar.Csontos@nrc.gov or 301-251-7640.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Brian W. Sheron, Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Enclosure:
NRC responses to comments from
Dr. Barbara Pellegrini to Dr. Gregory Jaczko

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