



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 21, 2015

SECRETARY

Mr. Brian Huffine, President
Palisades Park Country Club, Inc.
79336 Ravine Way
Covert, MI 49043

Dear Mr. Huffine:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter dated August 4, 2015, and your email dated September 10, 2015. In your correspondence, you expressed concern about the reactor pressure vessel at Entergy's Palisades Nuclear Plant. Specifically, you requested that the NRC require the licensee, Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc., to conduct direct testing of physical samples from the Palisades reactor. Along those lines, you further recommended that the Commission uphold the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board's recent decision to hold an evidentiary hearing regarding materials issues associated with Palisades' reactor pressure vessel.

As your letter and email indicate, a hearing request on this subject is currently pending before the NRC. In March 2015, Beyond Nuclear, Don't Waste Michigan, Michigan Safe Energy Future – Shoreline Chapter, and the Nuclear Energy Information Service (collectively, "the petitioners") sought a hearing on Entergy's license amendment request concerning whether the Palisades' reactor vessel plate and weld materials provide adequate margins of safety against fracture. The Licensing Board granted the petitioners' request for a hearing on June 18, 2015. Entergy has appealed the Board's decision to the Commission; that appeal is pending. Given the pendency of the matter before both the Commission and the Licensing Board, the Commission cannot at this time discuss or comment on any issues involved in this matter. Under NRC regulations, the Commission has an adjudicatory role in this case, and all members of the Commission must remain impartial while the case is pending.

A copy of your letter, your email, and this response will be served on all the participants in this and a related *Palisades* proceeding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Annette Vietti-Cook", is written over a horizontal line.

Annette L. Vietti-Cook