



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

April 4, 2016

Vice President, Operations  
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.  
Palisades Nuclear Plant  
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway  
Covert, MI 49043-9530

SUBJECT: PALISADES NUCLEAR PLANT – LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST –  
REVISION TO THE REQUIREMENTS FOR STEAM GENERATOR TUBE  
INSPECTIONS AND REPAIR CRITERIA IN THE COLD LEG TUBE SHEET  
REGION (CAC NO. MF7435)

Dear Sir or Madam:

By letter dated March 3, 2016 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML16075A103), Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (the licensee), submitted a license amendment for Palisades Nuclear Plant (PNP). The proposed amendment would revise the PNP technical specifications (TSs), as they apply to the Steam Generator (SG) Program. Specifically, the licensee requested to implement an alternate repair criteria (ARC), that invokes a C – Star inspection length (C\*), on a permanent basis for the cold-leg side of the SGs' tube sheet.

The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of this amendment request. The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review. The acceptance review is also intended to identify whether the application has any readily apparent information insufficiencies in its characterization of the regulatory requirements or the licensing basis of the plant.

Consistent with Section 50.90 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), an amendment to the license (including the TSs) must fully describe the changes requested, and following as far as applicable, the form prescribed for original applications. Section 50.34 of 10 CFR addresses the content of technical information required. This section stipulates that the submittal address the design and operating characteristics, unusual or novel design features, and principal safety considerations.

The NRC staff has reviewed your application and concluded that it does provide technical information in sufficient detail to enable the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed amendment in terms of regulatory requirements and protection of public health and safety and the environment. Given the lesser scope and depth of the acceptance review as compared to the detailed technical review, there may be instances in which issues that impact the NRC staff's ability to complete the detailed technical review are identified, despite completion of an adequate acceptance review. You will be advised of any further information needed to support the NRC staff's detailed technical review by separate correspondence.

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If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1530.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J Rankin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jennivine K. Rankin, Project Manager  
Plant Licensing Branch III-1  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-255

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If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1530.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Jennivine K. Rankin, Project Manager  
Plant Licensing Branch III-1  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-255

cc w/encl: Distribution via Listserv

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**ADAMS Accession No.: ML16084A333**

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