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Charles Bechhoefer, Esq.  
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dr. George C. Anderson  
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Re: Consumers Power Company  
(Palisades Plant)  
Docket No. 50-255-SP

Gentlemen:

As counsel for Consumers Power Company in the above-captioned proceeding, I am writing to inform the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board of recent events which concern the Palisades Plant. This matter does not relate to the instant proceeding, which involves Consumers Power's application for an operating license amendment authorizing the replacement of the steam generators. However, as a matter of courtesy, the Licensing Board and the parties are being provided with the following information.

In the course of recalculating the stresses which would be put on the nuclear plant's piping systems in the event of an earthquake, Consumers Power discovered that supports for two of the piping systems may not have an adequate margin of safety in terms of the amount of earthquake-related stress which the pipes could withstand. Therefore, Consumers Power decided on May 1, 1979, that the Palisades Plant, which was already shut down for another reason, would remain shut down until modifications to the piping support systems involved could be completed. It is estimated that those modifications will require two weeks.

Should there be further developments regarding this matter, the Licensing Board will be notified.

Very truly yours,

*Martha E. Gibbs*  
Martha E. Gibbs

MEG bc  
cc: Service List