



**Consumers
Power
Company**

COPY

General Offices: 212 West Michigan Avenue, Jackson, Michigan 49201 • Area Code 517 788-0550

July 23, 1973

Mr. John F. O'Leary, Director
Directorate of Licensing
US Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, DC 20545



Re: Docket 50-255
License DPR-20

Dear Mr. O'Leary:

Since returning the Palisades Plant to service following the February 1973 outage to repair steam generator tube leaks (refer to my letters to the AEC dated January 29, 1973 and March 6, 1973), we have observed low levels of radioactivity in the secondary side of the "A" steam generator. Immediately following the plant's return to service, these levels were attributed to residual contamination resulting from the original tube leakage.

The activity has persisted since returning the plant to operation, indicating very minor primary to secondary leakage in the "A" steam generator. Calculations performed yield that the leakage is less than five gallons per day.

Operation of the plant with steam generator tube leaks was evaluated during initial plant licensing. As a result of safety evaluations performed at that time, an appropriate limit was included in the Technical Specifications to limit iodine accumulation in the steam generator. Additional limits were incorporated during 1972 when the effects of operating the plant assuming fuel densification existed and that significant fuel gapping and clad collapse had occurred. This limit, 0.3 gpm, is the more restrictive of the two. The current measured leakage is less than one percent of the 0.3 gpm limit.

Yours very truly,

Ralph B. Sewell (Signed)

RBS/map

CC: BHGrier, USAEC

Ralph B. Sewell
Nuclear Licensing Administrator

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