



50-255

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

November 27, 1996

Mr. T. Palmisano  
General Manager  
Palisades Nuclear Generating Plant  
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway  
Covert, MI 49043-9530

SUBJECT: OPERATIONAL SAFEGUARDS RESPONSE EVALUATION REVIEW  
(TAC NO. M95877)

Dear Mr. Palmisano:

On July 23-24, 1996, NRC personnel evaluated Palisades' physical protection program. In particular, modifications to the protection program resulting from the 1992 Operational Safeguards Response Evaluation (OSRE) were evaluated.

The NRC personnel were briefed on Palisades' modified protective strategy, toured the plant to observe paths to the key equipment and responder deployment positions, conducted table-top armed response contingency drills, observed some actual armed response contingency drills and a weapons firing demonstration. The briefings, observations, and drills indicated that the planning and execution of the protective strategy was generally effective. The modifications and enhancements to the protection program since the 1992 OSRE were significant and effective, and indicative of diligent and intelligent effort by Palisades personnel.

Four specific areas were evaluated.

1. Response planning: It was clear that operations personnel had provided an excellent foundation for security's protective strategy. Further, their participation in this evaluation was excellent, and demonstrated a coordinated plant strategy and team to meet security contingencies. The drills demonstrated that security's preparations and strategy was capable of bringing significant response assets to bear in a timely fashion and appropriately armed against armed intruders attacking the critical equipment in the plant.
2. Response equipment: The drills indicated that the positioning and deployment of the response equipment was appropriate.
3. Contingency response training: As evidenced by the drills, training of the contingency response force has been effective. The response officers participating in the drills demonstrated an understanding of and the ability to execute the protective strategy effectively. The drills were realistic, and their planning, control, and execution were excellent and professional.
4. Deadly force: In the drills, the participating officers demonstrated a good understanding of the proper use of deadly force.

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In conclusion, the four concerns identified in the 1992 OSRE report are closed.

Additionally, the live-fire weapons demonstration provided evidence of; an excellent and cost-effective weapons training facility, an excellent start at providing a realistic and appropriate training course of fire, officers familiar with and able to safely manipulate the various weapons, and safe and professional control of the range.

This letter does not convey any new regulatory requirement. Its findings have been considered with respect to your ability to meet the general performance objective and requirements of 10 CFR 73.55(a).

This letter affects one respondent and, therefore, is not subject to the Office of Management and Budget review under Public Law 96-511.

No response to this letter is required. If you have questions concerning this evaluation, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

LeMoine J. Cunningham, Chief  
Safeguards Branch  
Division of Reactor Program Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-255

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