

From: Wall, Scott
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 5:21 PM
To: Couture III, Philip
Cc: Andrea Sterdis; Raimo, Susan; Lewis, David R.; Perkins, Katherine L.; Miksa, James P
Subject: Palisades Nuclear Plant – Acceptance of License Transfer Application (EPID No. L-2020-LLM-0003)

Dear Mr. Culture:

By letter dated December 23, 2020 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML20358A075), Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (ENOI), on behalf of itself, Entergy Nuclear Palisades, LLC (ENP), Holtec International (Holtec), and Holtec Decommissioning International, LLC (HDI) (collectively, the applicants), requested that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) approve the transfer of control of Provisional Operating License No. DPR 6 and Renewed Facility Operating License No. DPR 20 for Big Rock Point Plant (Big Rock Point) and Palisades Nuclear Plant (Palisades), respectively, as well as the general license for the Big Rock Point Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) and the Palisades ISFSI (collectively, the licenses). Specifically, the application requests that the NRC consent to (1) the transfer of control of the licenses to Holtec and (2) the transfer of ENOI's operating authority to HDI. The NRC is also considering amending the licenses for administrative purposes to reflect the proposed transfer. In addition, on December 23, 2020, HDI submitted a "Post Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report including Site-Specific Decommissioning Cost Estimate for Palisades Nuclear Plant," (ADAMS Accession No. ML20358A232), which the NRC is considering as a supplement to the license transfer application.

The purpose of this e-mail is to provide the results of the 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 technical specifications) 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, as further informed by information provided in HDI's December 23, 2020, transmittal to the NRC, 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 exemption in terms of regulatory requirements and the 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. If additional information is needed, you will be advised by separate correspondence.

Based on the information provided in your submittal, the NRC staff has estimated that this licensing request will take approximately **400 hours** to complete. The NRC staff expects to complete this review by **January 2021**. If there are emergent complexities or challenges in our review that would cause changes to the initial forecasted completion date or significant changes in the forecasted hours, the reasons for the changes, along with the new estimates, will be communicated during the routine interactions with the assigned project manager.

These estimates are based on the NRC staff's initial review of the application and they could change, due to several factors including requests for additional information, unanticipated addition of scope to the review, and review by NRC advisory committees or hearing-related activities.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-2855 or e-mail at Scott.Wall@nrc.gov.

Scott P. Wall, LSS BB, BSP

Senior Project Manager

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Hearing Identifier: NRR_DRMA
Email Number: 986

Mail Envelope Properties (MN2PR09MB5019039DD98FF89909BA982F92BB9)

Subject: Palisades Nuclear Plant – Acceptance of License Transfer Application (EPID No. L-2020-LLM-0003)
Sent Date: 1/27/2021 5:21:20 PM
Received Date: 1/27/2021 5:21:22 PM
From: Wall, Scott

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Post Office: MN2PR09MB5019.namprd09.prod.outlook.com

Files	Size	Date & Time
MESSAGE	4512	1/27/2021 5:21:22 PM

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